

CALIFORNIA NUMBER

Public Libraries

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No. 5

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Library Bureau

CHICAGO

215 Madison St.

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J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

ANNOUNCE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

OUR ISLAND EMPIRE.

A Hand-Book of Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines.

By Charles Morris, author of "The War with Spain," "The Nation's Navy," etc.

Octavo. 400 pages. Cloth, \$1.50.

This book is a mine of information concerning these new possessions or wards of the United States, dealing with all subjects of interest, so that by its aid one can acquaint himself with the characteristics, productions, and trade possibilities of all these islands.

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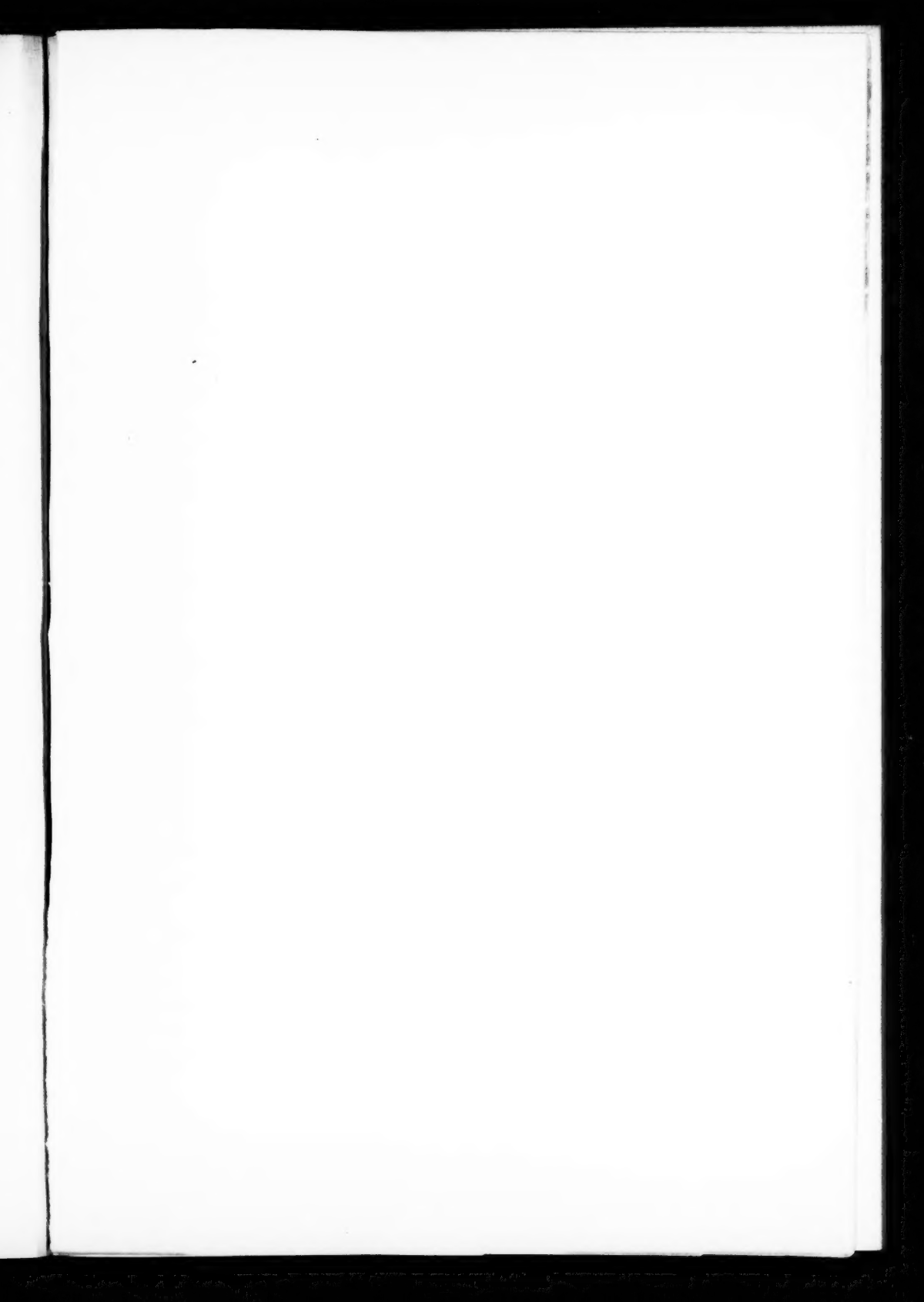
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Infatuation. A New Copyright Novel by Mrs. B. M. Crocker. 12mo. Paper, 50 cents; cloth, \$1.00. In Lippincott's Series of Select Novels for February, 1899.

FOR SALE BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.





Public Libraries

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***Organization of Small Libraries**

Ella F. Corwin, Library organizer, Madison, Wis.

Next in importance to the question of how to establish a library is the one of how to make it most useful. A collection of books arranged on shelves, without any thought of classification, is better than no library at all, just as a poor public school is better than no school at all. But to get the best good of a library, and to make the greatest possible use of the books, there must be organization, and of course the more careful the organization the better the library.

Have you ever confronted a wall of books, hoping to find information on some subject which you feel sure is treated in some one of them, and have you turned despairingly away with a feeling partly of indignation at being deprived of something rightfully yours, and partly of pity that so great a treasure house should be locked to the anxious seeker? Or have you visited a library where contributions from the pens of the wisest and wittiest of all time are covered with dust and never called for, because no one knows they are there?

"Formerly," says Lowell, in a talk on Books and libraries, "the duty of a librarian was considered too much that of a watch-dog, to keep people as much as possible away from the books, and to hand these over to his successor as little worn by use as he could. Librarians

now, it is pleasant to see, have a different notion of their trust." They feel it their duty not only to guide the patrons of the library to the best reading, but to help them to find what they want, furnishing them "with finger-posts at every turn," thereby supplying a seeker for nothing with one at least of the results of thorough scholarship, the knowing where to look for what he wants. Out of the necessities of the case, then, a beautiful system of organization has grown, thanks largely to American librarians.

I shall not be able to tell you in a few words, nor in the few moments allotted to me, how to organize a library. All I can hope to do is to point out some of the things to be done, some of the difficulties to be overcome, and perhaps some of the ways to overcome them.

In the first place it is necessary for the correct organization of a library to secure helps and tools for the work. The Denver Hand-book and Miss Plummer's Hints to small libraries are invaluable; the A. L. A. catalog, and that of any well-conducted library, such as the Milwaukee, Cleveland, etc.—these for helps and suggestions. For information as to rules to be observed, form, technicalities, etc., there are positively necessary a copy of Cutter's Rules for a dictionary catalog (which can be procured from the United States Bureau of education for the asking); a copy of the Dewey decimal classification or of Cutter's expansive classification; a Cutter Alphabetic order table, and, if possible, the A. L. A. List of sub-

*Read at the Wisconsin library association, Milwaukee, Feb. 23, 1899.

ject headings, and Dewey's Library school rules. Having secured these tools, supplies will next need to be ordered. They will consist of an accession book, shelf-list cards (one for each book), catalog cards (on an average four for each book), and a cabinet to hold the catalog.

Having now secured supplies and tools we are ready to begin work. First the classification to be used must be determined upon. It is generally conceded that the Dewey and the Cutter are of about equal merit, and whichever it is decided to use the result will no doubt be satisfactory. For myself I feel like saying, after the manner of the Irishman, that I don't care which is used so long as it is the Dewey. Having then decided upon the classification, the work would better be begun with the first book on the top shelf at one side of the library, and taking each book separately work toward the last book on the bottom shelf on the other side. Each book should be carefully classified with the help of the classification and any good catalogs which may be at hand. It should be assigned its number at the same time, and both the classification and author number must be written in pencil on the title-page. Then the shelf-list card must be written. As each book receives its proper classification and book number it should be put carefully back in its own place, which will be forever and all time its place. I don't mean that it will stand on the self-same spot on the self-same shelf each day, but it will always and forever stand in the same relation to the other books in the library. Never again, for example, when Baxter's *Saints' rest* is wanted, will it be necessary to begin with the eye on a work of fiction perhaps, pass to one on philosophy, next to one on cookery, then to one on juggling, and after patience is nearly exhausted find the book which is sought; but without any hesitation or loss of time the seeker will now find the book under its proper classification symbol, reposing peacefully with the other saints and those books which aim to

guide the soul to that rest and peace which the new classification gives to mind and body. No book should be returned to its shelf until a shelf-list card is made for it. These must be arranged exactly as the books are arranged on the shelves. They constitute a complete inventory of the library, ready any moment it may be called into service. If some fussy member of the board wants every book in the library accounted for at ten o'clock on Monday morning it can be done, and if at two o'clock the next afternoon another member wants the same thing, the librarian is ready for him. No more notices will appear in the weekly paper to the effect that the library is closed for two weeks to take inventory, and the librarian and his methods will cease to cause annoyance to a patient public which always wants a book more when the library is closed than it ever does at any other time. The shelf-list also forms a complete classed catalog of the library, arranged alphabetically by authors.

Now that the library is classified and numbered, how simple is the accessioning. The books should be taken down, one by one, as they are now arranged, the accession entry made according to the careful rules laid down in the accession book, each one of which should be studiously read before beginning the work. These tell the whys and wherefores, and should be observed exactly as given. They can't be improved upon by a beginner, neither can they be dispensed with. Here we have a history of every book in the library; here we can find the exact value of the library. The inquisitive member of the board whom I mentioned before (May his shadow never grow less!) may also know at any time he may inquire exactly how many books are under the librarian's charge.

Next in order, the work to be done is to make the catalog. As I said before the shelf-list forms a complete classed catalog, and while I think it is always advisable to have a complete dictionary catalog, if possible, the shelf-list makes

a very good substitute in a very small library.

One of the most satisfactory things about a dictionary card catalog is that it calls attention to articles which may be buried under an obscure title in a collection of articles, and which might be forever lost unless brought out in this way. A shelf-list of course does not do this. But a progressive librarian, in fact a librarian who is a librarian, will study his books, will, if his library is small, know their contents pretty well, and not many good articles will escape his attention; besides, when shelves are open to the public, and every patron of the library has the privilege of taking down any or all of the books, if he wishes, I am inclined to think that most of the information he gets from the library will be gotten in this way and not from the catalog. I hope I shall not be misunderstood, and that any of you will decide that I mean to advise any library to get along without a catalog if one can be made. I have emphasized the fact that it is possible to get along pretty well without one, because of the difficulties of making a complete and altogether satisfactory one without giving the matter much hard study and a great deal of time. I know it seems simple enough to write one card for the author of a book, one for its title, and one for its subject, then to arrange them alphabetically and, presto, you have a dictionary catalog; but better no catalog than a poor or inaccurate one. Who cares for an inaccurate catalog? Of what value is a catalog which tells things that are not so? When a catalog attributes the works of Herbert E. Hamblen and Frederick Benton Williams to two persons, transforms George Rawlinson to George Rawlingson, calls Ruskin's *King of the Golden River* a work on political economy, or adds an "h" to the name of the Four MacNicols and a "w" to *Crowded Out of Crofield*, says that Kenneth Grahame's *Golden Age* is ancient history, I fear it is hardly worthy its name and is of little or no value.

I should say, however, that if a catalog is attempted, I think a fairly satis-

factory one might be made for a very small library (and I have had no other in mind in these remarks) by carefully, thoughtfully, and industriously making use of the helps I have suggested in the beginning of this paper, taking plenty of time to compare and verify the work, visiting other libraries and studying catalogs there, and calling upon trained catalogers for suggestions and help.

And now I know of no better conclusion to the whole matter than to quote from Mr Dana's *Hand-book*: As for the refinements and niceties of accession book, catalog, and classification, and the rules and regulations, and the intricacies and moot points and woes thereof, are they not all set forth in the *Library Journal*, and in volumes on the art and science of the library, and cannot he [the librarian] learn them if he will?

And if his library grow greatly he must.

The Library Primer

There will be issued shortly by the Library Bureau the long-talked-of *Library primer*.

The first draft of this *Primer*, it will be remembered, appeared in the early numbers of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*. It was compiled originally by J. C. Dana, who has edited the volume now in press, rewriting a large part of it, and revising it throughout. The *Primer* will be just what its name indicates—an elementary treatise on library matters, and including other things outside technical methods. It will prove a useful and valuable aid to those who have not had the advantages of systematic training in library work, particularly on localities removed from the library centers, and to those who are just starting in the work. Trustees and others who contemplate opening new libraries will find in the *Library primer* many useful hints and suggestions. Space is given also to topics related to libraries, such as clubs, museums, etc.

The leading writers on library methods are quoted freely, and the *Primer* will be fully illustrated on all topics.

Practical Hints on Organizing

Zella Frances Adams, M. L. (Northwestern university), Evanston, Ill.

Accession book

Every volume in the library should be entered in the accession book and numbered, in the order in which it is received. The accession number is to be written or stamped in each book in the lower margin of first recto, just below the call number.

In the accession book there are spaces for recording the date of entry, accession number, author, title, place of publication, name of publisher, date of publication, number of pages, size, binding, source, cost, class number, book number, volume number, and remarks.

Unbound accession sheets, for practice work, can be purchased for a small sum. Cole's size card will be found convenient for measuring books. Sample pages from an accession book, and full rules for making entries in correct form, are given in the Simplified library school rules.

Charging system

The Library Bureau charging system has been adopted by many libraries, and has given general satisfaction. It provides a simple and effective means of tracing a book, and furnishes data for compiling statistics. The system requires cards for borrowers, a borrowers' register, a book-card and card-pocket for each book, and a tray for holding the cards of books which are out.

Borrowers' register.—The borrowers' register is a list of the names and addresses of all persons who borrow books from the library. The list may be kept in a book or on cards. Names should be numbered in the order of entry.

Borrowers' cards.—A card is prepared for each borrower. At the top of the card are lines for name, address, registry number, and date of expiration of privileges. The remainder of the card is used for charging the books borrowed.

Book-card.—Space is provided on each book-card for call number, author, brief title, and for recording dates when book

is loaned and returned, and borrowers' numbers.

Card-pocket.—The card-pocket bearing the printed rules and regulations of the library, and the call number and accession number of the book, should be pasted inside the book cover. The pocket is intended to hold the book-card while the book remains in the library. When the book is borrowed the book-card is marked with date and borrower's number, and filed in the charging case, while the borrower's card, having received date and the number of the book, is placed in the pocket. When the book is brought back, both book-card and borrower's card are stamped with date of return. The borrower takes his card, the book-card is replaced in its pocket, and the book returned to the shelf.

Illustrations of pockets, cards, and trays are shown in the catalog of the Library Bureau, and in Miss Plummer's Hints to small libraries.

Plan of work

Order all supplies needed and have them ready before beginning to reorganize, so that vexatious delays may not occur after the work is fairly under way.

Charging system.—Prepare the borrowers' register and borrowers' cards as soon as possible, and put the charging system into partial operation. Use the borrowers' cards for charging the loans, and retain the cards in the library until the full system is completed. A number of the books will be provided with pockets and book-cards before the others. In these cases the record of loans should be kept on both borrowers' cards and book-cards, and the cards filed in separate trays at the desk. When the book-cards have been prepared for all the books, the borrower may take charge of his card.

Preparation of books.—Remove from the shelves a number of books (100 is a convenient number), and put them through a course of preparation. Follow the order of routine outlined below, and repeat the process for all the books in the library:

- 1 Paste pocket in book.
- 2 Classify.
- 3 *Check author entry on title-page.
- 4 Shelf-list.
- 5 Accession; put accession number on shelf-list card.
- 6 Prepare book-card.
- 7 Write accession and call numbers on book-pocket.
- 8 Label.
- 9 Return books to shelves.

If the work is to be done by one person, each step may be completed with the number of books selected before entering on the next step; but if several assistants are employed, the work may be so divided that each worker can keep slightly in advance of the one who follows, and the various operations may be carried on simultaneously.

Rearrangement.—If convenient, arrange the books in their new order as each group is returned to the shelves; but if the shelf room is insufficient the rearrangement can be left until all the books have been renumbered.

Cataloging.—The books are now ready to be cataloged. Take them in the order in which they stand, compare with the shelf-list and make notes of those that are missing. Put check marks in the books cataloged, and finally, look up the books that were missed in the first round, and complete the work.

Periodicals.—Establish a system for checking periodicals. Serial blanks properly ruled and spaced can be had for this purpose. Use patent binders for current numbers, and keep them in a rack in the reading room. Back numbers may be kept in pamphlet boxes. Label the boxes and arrange them on the shelves in alphabetical order. When a volume is complete, remove from the box and send to the binder.

The Chinese department of the British museum library contains a single work which occupies 5020v. It is an encyclopedia of the literature of China, covering a period of twenty-eight centuries, from 110 B. C. to 1700 A. D.

*For code of check marks, see Library school rules.

A Cuban Public Library

The New York Post of recent date contains a letter written to Gen. Wilson by Eduard Diaz, governor-general of Mantanzas, Cuba, in which he asks for contributions for a public library which he has started for the city of Mantanzas. Senor Diaz is cordially indorsed by Gen. Wilson, who highly recommends the plan set forth as calculated to accomplish a double purpose. It would supply the knowledge so much needed to the people and at the same time not only supply information, but give an opportunity to create a better understanding of the people of the United States. The present 3000v. of the library constitutes a collection which, in an American city or village, would be consigned almost in toto to the junk-shop as having no other value. The special needs and special wants are books of general literary character, history, travel, romance, etc., of educational tendency, showing customs, habits, and thoughts of the people of other nations, and particularly those of the people of the United States, to whom the people of Cuba unquestionably look as a standard for their own imitation. They want departmental reports and works treating of the system of government in and by the United States.

The institution with which the library is connected contains a museum of natural history, a chemical laboratory, and a modest meteorological observatory. It maintains professorships, and has recently added two of languages, for instruction in English and in Spanish. In a normal condition of affairs in the island it has a fairly ample revenue. At present it is heavily handicapped. Any supply of books of the character indicated would prove a valuable educating medium in a community where 100,000 people would derive the benefit of its influence, and any communications addressed to Senor Eduard Diaz, governor-general of Matanzas, Mantanzas, Cuba, would meet with courteous and grateful attention.

Best 50 Books of 1898

Sent out from Public libraries division of
University of New York

A list of 500 of the leading books of 1898 was recently submitted to the librarians of the state and others, to obtain an expression of opinion respecting the best 50 books of 1898 to be added to a village library. From 147 lists that met the conditions, the following choice is indicated.

In comparing the votes it was found that four books in the 49th rank received the same number of votes, and for that reason 52 books are named in the order of votes received.

An annotated list of best books of 1898 will be issued by the State library at an early day. MEVIL DEWEY,
Director.

52 Books of 1898

Having most votes and arranged in order of votes

- 1 Kipling, Rudyard. The day's work. \$1.50.
- 2 Gladstone, Bryce, James. \$1.
- 3 Smith, F. H. Caleb West, master diver. \$1.50.
- 4 Worcester, D. C. Philippine islands and their people. \$4.
- 5 Parker, Gilbert. Battle of the strong. \$1.50.
- 6 Wiggins, Mrs K. D. Penelope's progress. \$1.25.
- Wyckoff, W. A. The Workers; the west. \$1.50.
- 8 Page, T. N. Red rock. \$1.50.
- 9 Mitchell, S. W. Adventures of François. \$1.50.
- Rostand, Edmond. Cyrano de Bergerac; from the French by G. Thomas and M. F. Guillemard. \$1.
- 11 Crawford, F. M. Ave Roma immortalis. 2v. net \$6.
- Hawkins, A. H. Rupert of Hentzau. \$1.50.
- Ward, Mrs M. A. Helbeck of Bannisdale. 2v. \$2.
- 14 Lodge, H. C. Story of the Revolution. 2v. \$6.
- 15 Peary, R. E. Northward over the great ice; northern Greenland in 1886 and 1891-97. 2v. net \$6.50.
- 16 Steevens, G. W. With Kitchener to Khar-tum. \$1.50.
- 17 Davis, R. H. Cuban and Porto Rican campaigns. \$1.50.
- 18 Kidd, Benjamin. Control of the tropics. 75c.
- 19 Deland, Mrs M. W. C. Old Chester tales. \$1.50.
- 20 Westcott, E. N. David Harum. \$1.50.
- Wright, M. O. Four-footed Americans and their kin. net \$1.50.
- 22 Shakspeare. Lee, Sidney. Life of William Shakespeare. net \$1.75.
- 23 Parloa, Maria. Home economics. \$1.50.
- 24 Bismarck. Bismarck-Schonhausen, Otto, prince von Bismarck the man and the statesman. 2v. \$7.50.
- 25 Earle, Mrs A. M. Home life in colonial days. \$2.50.
- Shaler, N. S. Outlines of the earth's history. \$1.75.
- 27 Hewlett, Maurice. Forest lovers. \$1.50.
- Spears, J. R. Our navy in the war with Spain. \$1.50.
- Thompson, E. S. Wild animals I have known. \$2.
- 30 Weyman, S. J. Castle Inn. \$1.50.
- Wingate, C. F. What shall our boys do for a living? \$1.
- 32 Demolin, Edmond. Anglo-Saxon superiority: to what it is due. \$1.50.
- Henty, G. A. Under Wellington's command. \$1.50.
- Higginson, T. W. Tales of the enchanted islands of the Atlantic. \$1.50.
- 35 Griffis, W. E. Pilgrims in their three homes—England, Holland, and America. \$1.25.
- Higginson. Higginson, T. W. Cheerful yesterdays. \$2.
- Zangwill, Israel. Dreamers of the Ghetto. \$1.50.
- 38 Dana, C. A. Recollections of the civil war. \$2.
- 39 Emery, M. S. How to enjoy pictures. \$1.50.
- Hulme, F. E. Flags of the world, their history, blazonry and associations. \$2.
- 41 Bailey, L. H. Garden making. (Garden-craft ser.) \$1.
- Brooks, E. S. True story of Benjamin Franklin. (Children's lives of great men.) \$1.50.
- Hedin, Sven. Through Asia. 2v. \$10.
- Henderson, W. J. What is good music? net \$1.
- Landor, A. H. S. In the forbidden land. 2v. \$9.
- 46 Colquhoun, A. R. China in transformation. \$3.
- Grinnell, G. B. & Roosevelt, Theodore. eds. Trail and camp-fire. \$2.80.
- Scott, H. S. Henry Seton Merriman, pseud. Roden's corner. \$1.75.
- 49 Hill, R. T. Cuba and Porto Rico. \$3.
- Hutton, Laurence. Boy I knew and Four dogs. \$1.25.
- Mabie, H. W. Essays on work and culture. \$1.25.
- Stevens, J. E. Yesterdays in the Philippines. \$1.50.

[An appraisal of the original list by the Massachusetts library club will be found on page 206.—EDITOR.]

Books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.

The Ohio Library Association

Fifth annual meeting

Toledo, Aug. 9 and 10, 1899

The Ohio Library association is considering the advisability of a course of lectures, probably eight in number, to be given in four sessions in connection with the annual meeting of the association at Toledo in August, 1899. The lectures will be introductory to and suggestive of the more thorough training of the library schools. They will point out the necessity of discipline, accuracy, and a thorough knowledge of library methods. The fundamental library questions will be considered for the benefit of those who are beginning the work, or those who wish to review and refresh their knowledge of first principles.

The topics will include classification, cataloging, charging systems, and the use of reference books. As this will substantially indicate some of the essentials of good librarianship, it will be of interest to trustees. The coöperation of competent teachers is assured, and the lectures will be free.

Library boards throughout the state will do well to encourage the attendance of their junior assistants upon these lectures. The course will be given if a sufficient number of persons express their intention to attend. Suggestions are invited as to topics for discussion, or problems and difficulties for consideration. All who are interested are invited to send any opinions or suggestions to Charles Orr, secretary O. L. A., Case library, Cleveland.

A Gift to Public Libraries

Prof. W. C. Wilkinson, of the university of Chicago, is authorized to offer as a free gift to any and every public library in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain (until the supply of copies, which is, of course, though considerable not unlimited, fails), a copy of the book thus described:

Ecclesiology: A fresh inquiry as to the fundamental idea and constitution of the New Testament church; with a sup-

plement on ordination. By Rev. E. J. Fish, D.D. Cloth extra, fine paper, 400 pp., 12mo. Price \$2.

Dr Fish disposes this volume into four parts—I, The fundamental idea of the church; II, The New Testament church constitution; III, Application of principles; IV, A supplement on ordination—and addresses himself to his themes with the full earnestness of ability, clearness of logic, and conscientiousness of spirit which comprehensive treatment requires. As a "building fitly framed together," it is a fair-minded and standard contribution to the best religious literature of the Christian age.

Any library desiring to avail itself of this offer has only to remit 16 cents, the cost of emballage and postage, to Prof. W. C. Wilkinson, 5630 Woodlawn av., Chicago, and it will in due time receive the promised volume.

Dr Fish, the author, is deceased, and this proposal is made in accordance with what, it is believed, would be his own wish. The book may therefore be labeled,

PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHOR,
W. C. W.

A. L. A. Proceedings

All the back numbers of the proceedings of the A. L. A. have recently been turned over to the Publishing section in accordance with the vote of the association. The Publishing section can now supply copies of the proceedings for all years beginning with 1886, except for the year 1888. The price for all years for which an ample supply is still on hand has been fixed at \$1. Of the years 1886, 1892, and 1893, less than 10 copies remain, and these will be sold for \$2.50 each. Of the years 1890, 1891, and 1896 less than 25 copies remain, and the price of these has been fixed at \$2, which will be raised to \$2.50 when only ten copies are left. The price of the other years will also be raised to \$2 when the stock is reduced to 25 copies. Application should be made to the A. L. A. Publishing section, 10½ Beacon st., Boston.

WE have received on the eve of going to press, and too late for insertion in this number, the draft of the revised constitution of the A. L. A. We note some of the proposed revisions.

The first amendments worthy of notice are sections of Article 2, concerning membership. The meaning seems a little indefinite. After limiting the membership to librarians, trustees, and those engaged in library administration, admission is then given to those interested in library work by vote of the executive board. Are these latter to be considered active voting members? Or are they included in associates who are provided for as follows:

Sec. 3. Associate members may be admitted for a single year on approval by the board and on payment of a special fee of \$1, or such other sum as shall be required by the executive board, and of the annual dues of \$2. Associates shall be entitled to the privileges of attendance (except at close sessions) and of reduced rates granted to members, but not to votes in the meetings.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES from the first has been opposed to the line of exclusion being drawn, and does not yet see how the true library spirit is to be advanced by limiting the membership. The spread of the work and influence of the A. L. A. has come about as largely through the new enthusiasts as by special efforts of the early workers.

By providing for sectional work, as is done in the revision later, the cause of complaint, that some important things were crowded out of discussion in a large meeting, has been eliminated, and there is no good reason why active membership should be restricted.

The succession to the presidency is provided for as follows:

The president after serving a full term shall not be eligible for reelection for the term succeeding, except on specific and unanimous recommendation of the council. In case of his death, resignation, or inability to serve, the council, or, on its failure to meet and elect within one month after such vacancy occurs, the executive board, shall elect a successor, who may be eligible for election for the full term next succeeding; and pending such election the ranking vice-president shall act as president.

The secretaryship calls out the following:

The secretary, subject to the general authority of the president, shall be the active executive officer, and his office shall be the general office of the association. He may be compensated by such salary or allowance as may be recommended by the finance committee, approved by the council, and authorized by the association. He shall have charge of the roll of members, of the books, papers, and correspondence, and of the publication of the annual handbook, and shall give due notice of any election, appointment, meeting, or other business requiring the personal attention of any member.

Sectional meetings are provided for as follows:

Sections for the consideration of the work of state, law, college, reference, large, small, or other libraries of special class, or of the relations of trustees, assistants, catalogers, or any other special class of library workers, may be formed by any 10 members of the association, with the approval of the council.

If at any time after one year from the organization of any section its active membership shall be less than 20, or the attendance at a regular session should be less than 10, the council may withdraw the authority for such section.

Affiliated organizations are treated as follows?

Sec. 1. Any state, local, or other library organization may be affiliated with the American Library Association, on approval by the council, by registering with the secretary its constitution, or plan of organization, and by complying with the conditions, if any, prescribed by the council.

Sec. 2. Each affiliated organization shall pay into the treasury of the association annually 10 cents for each of its active members, and will be entitled to a copy of the proceedings, and of the other publications of the association, including those of the Publishing section.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the council, or of the executive board, to provide or suggest a special topic, and speakers, for one session in each year of each affiliated organization.

Sec. 4. Each affiliated organization may designate each year a representative for the council of the association, but no person shall be so designated who is not a member of the American Library Association.

It is a matter of regret that unavoidable delay has prevented the committee from sending out the draft of this matter before. There is room for thoughtful discussion on the revisions proposed. But no doubt much will be done toward reaching conclusions that will clear up some of the vagueness which has enveloped many of the points heretofore, even if universal satisfaction is not reached.

Library Legislation in Wisconsin

The legislature of Wisconsin has always been most generous toward the library interests in that state, and this year there is no change in the policy.

The name of the library commission has been changed from State library commission to Free library commission, to avoid the mistake of connecting it in people's minds with the State library, as has sometimes occurred. The commission has been authorized to hold a summer school in library science in conjunction with the university of Wisconsin, and also to hold institutes for the instruction of librarians in various parts of the state. It has also been empowered to accept, arrange, and circulate traveling libraries, to be loaned according to the judgment of the commission under whatever rules are necessary. There is an annual appropriation of \$3500 to be used in carrying on the proposed work, and any balance not expended in any one year may be added to the expenditure for any ensuing year.

The free library law has been so amended as to allow a free system of exchange between different sections, and to make more complete the idea of traveling libraries.

Suggestive Lists of Novels

To the Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Some weeks ago, while discussing with an assistant the Holmes-Southworth weakness, it occurred to me that general remedies were not the thing, that what was wanted was a specific, and that this might be found in lists of novels compiled especially for those readers of undeveloped intellect and taste. Accordingly we have thus far prepared and printed eight lists, comprising novels just above the grade of those they are designed to supplant. The books are carefully selected with a view to pleasing the class of readers whom we aim to reach, and in many cases the titles are such as are likely to attract their attention. The lists are adapted for use as call slips. One is placed in

every novel of Holmes, Southworth, Fleming, and Wilson that is issued. A thousand of each were printed, and thus far nearly all of the first four and about half of number five and six have been given out. A good many of them have come in as call slips, and the demand for the inferior authors mentioned has been to that extent lessened. This plan judiciously and persistently carried out, will, I am inclined to think, be productive of good results.

F. M. CRUNDEN.

Meeting Place of A. L. A.

One of the questions which is being discussed now, and properly so, is the place of meeting of the A. L. A. in 1900. Montreal has issued an invitation for the meeting, and makes a strong plea that it be held in that city. Niagara Falls has also asked the librarians to meet in that city next year. Both places are attractive, and either one would promise an enjoyable outing for the librarians.

Toledo, Ohio, celebrates a centennial in 1902, and has already planned to make the A. L. A. meeting of that year one of the attractions and events of the celebration.

Mr Dewey writes of the meeting next year to PUBLIC LIBRARIES as follows:

I learn with pleasure today of the official invitation from the board of governors of McGill university, for the A. L. A. to meet in Montreal in 1900. This seems to me an ideal place. We naturally should come east and north. Montreal is a delightful place in the summer, and we shall have an opportunity to see the great strides made in the last few years by McGill university, the leading institution of the entire Dominion. With the St Lawrence, the Saguenay, Quebec, and other attractive features, and the chance to see libraries outside the United States without the labor and expense of a journey abroad, large numbers ought to accept the cordial invitation of McGill. I learn from Wisconsin that our friends there wish us to come in 1901, so that all interests seem to make the way clear for Montreal next year.

MELVIL DEWEY.

American Library Association

Atlanta (Ga.) meeting, May 8-13, 1889.

The arrangements for the meeting of the A. L. A. at Atlanta are about all complete, and the outlook is good for a prosperous meeting.

The arrangements for the eastern party, as set forth in the booklet issued by the Norfolk & Western railway, promise a very delightful trip through the most picturesque and interesting parts of the east. The itinerary for the western party while not so varied still promises many pleasant features.

The day in Cincinnati, with its many interesting places, will, of itself, be a pleasure. Then it affords a break, or day of rest for those who dislike long, continuous journeys.

The special train will leave Chicago Saturday, May 6, at 8:30 in the evening over the Monon, and reach Cincinnati at 7:30 next morning. The librarians and their friends from the middle west will join forces here and proceed to Chattanooga together at 8 o'clock Sunday night, arriving there early next morning. Here the party will await the arrival of the eastern friends, and all will proceed to Atlanta as one train at noon, reaching Atlanta at 5 p. m.

Definite arrangements have been made with the Southern railway, allowing a stop over of three days at Chattanooga for the western party, which will therefore leave Chattanooga at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, reaching Chicago at 7:30 Wednesday morning. The return trip carries the party through the mountains of Tennessee and the Blue Grass region of Kentucky by daylight.

The fare from Chicago and return will be \$28.55; sleeper both ways, \$9. The fare from Cincinnati and return will be \$13.90. Those going must be sure to get a certificate from railroad agent from whom they buy their ticket, as only this will entitle them to the one-third fare for return. Rates at Kimball House (headquarters) in Atlanta, \$2.50 a day. Less expensive places may be secured by addressing Miss Wallace, Young men's library, Atlanta, Ga.

Library Meetings

Connecticut—The Library association held its annual meeting in the Case memorial library, Hartford, March 24. The discussion was largely on the relation of the public library, and the library of the Sunday-school. The first paper was by William H. Hall, of West Hartford, who called attention to the fact that the Sunday-school library had become largely secularized, and that the first idea of it was an extremely religious one, modified at length by the introduction of children's books which were of the goody-goody order. He had known libraries of Sunday-schools to have books that were of popular interest, such as *Off to Manila*, a book on the Klondike, and other books that did not formerly come under the idea of Sunday-school literature. There had been a general change in the character of books, or else the old books on the shelves were not taken. The circumstances were all in favor of the public library providing the reading for the young people of the community. There was undoubtedly room for special books for the Sunday-school, aids to the teaching force and the like, but in general literature the public library had all things with it.

Mrs Stone and Miss Clark gave accounts of furnishing books for two Sunday-schools.

A general discussion followed the papers, in which the final word seemed to be that the public library and the Sunday-school library should coöperate as far as possible by taking care not to duplicate, particularly in small towns, and that the Sunday-school library should be largely a working library for the benefit of those interested in Sunday-school work.

The officers elected for the next year were as follows: President, W. J. James of the Wesleyan library, Middletown; vice-presidents, Mrs Agnes Hills, Bridgeport; Mrs M. B. Cheney, South Manchester; S. P. Willard, Colchester; C. W. Chapell jr., New London; treasurer, Alice T. Cummings, Hartford; secretary, Josephine S. Heydrick, Southport.

Massachusetts—A meeting of the Library club was held in Dedham, on April 18.

The address of the morning was made by Frederic Jesup Stimson, author of *King Noanett* and other novels. His theme of American fiction was taken from an Omaha paper, which, in an editorial, deplored the absence of good American fiction, and in the review columns noticed the rank and file of English novels to the exclusion of American.

The reason for this tendency to magnify the English is due, he thinks, to snobbery, to the lack of real criticism, and to our forgetfulness that writing is an art. He considered the novel as an important factor in the correction of national manners. He suggested to the librarians that they try to get people to read good old books.

Then began the discussion of the books of 1898, the list issued by the university of the state of New York being used as a basis. Dr Wire, of the Worcester county law library, began with the reference books and useful arts. He criticised the list in general as too uneven, and including too many expensive books. He specially commended Harbottle's dictionary of quotations. The useful art list he would enlarge by adding more hygiene and sanitation.

Rev. W. L. Ropes, of the Andover theological seminary, followed with the list of philosophy and religion. The philosophy list he reduced to three titles for the library of limited means: viz., Baldwin, *Story of the mind*; Hibben, *Problems of philosophy*; Mosher, *Child culture in the home*; Royce, *Studies of good and evil*; Taylor, *Study of the child*.

In religion he omitted for the small library all except Lang, *Making of religion*; Smith, *Life of Drummond*; Waterman, *Post-apostolic age*.

The morning session was closed by Don Gleason Hill, who gave a sketch of historic Dedham.

The afternoon session was opened by H. C. Wellman, who read a paper on the Social science books from Miss

Rollins, of the Boston public library, who was unable to be present. John Murdoch, also of the Boston public library, commented on the books in natural science. The worst that could be said of any of the books on the list was that they are less desirable than the others.

Fiction was considered by Mrs Eben Dale, of Boston. The following 14 titles she unhesitatingly recommended: Bayly, *Hope the hermit*; Deland, *Old Chester tales*; French, *Heart of toil*; Fuller, *One of the pilgrims*; Kipling, *Day's work*; Mitchell, *Adventure of François*; Ollivant, *Bob, son of battle*; Page, *Red rock*; Parker, *Battle of the strong*; Roberts, *Sister to Evangeline*; Smith, *Caleb West*; Westcott, *David Harum*; White, *Lover of truth*; Wiggin, *Penelope's progress*.

Five books are thought hardly worthy the small library; viz., Crowninshield, *Where the trade wind blows*; Ford, *Tattle tales of Cupid*; Larned, *Rembrandt*; Riis, *Out of Mulberry street*; Poor, *Boston neighbors*.

C. K. Bolton, of the Boston atheneum, considered Emery's *How to enjoy pictures*, as the one book on the list for the small library.

From the music list, Miss Hooper, of the Brookline public library, omitted Blackburn, *Fringe of an art*; Mathews, *The masters and their music*.

Miss Garland, of the Dover (N. H.) public library, spoke of literature in a delightful way. She divided the books into three classes: 1) Those intended to stimulate thought and imagination; 2) the books of information; and, 3) those intended to amuse. She considered Brande's *Shakespeare* the best book on the list, and added Hewlett, *Earthwork out of Tuscany*, and Mr Dooley. The poetry she considered less noteworthy this year.

John Ritchie, of the Appalachian mountain club, discussed the books of description and travel. From his standpoint Colquhoun, *China in transformation*, is the leading book of the year; Heden, *Through Asia*, the best volume

of exploration. Decle, Three years in savage Africa, he would omit.

R. W. Hine, superintendent of schools, Dedham, spoke of the books on education. On general education he thought Eliot, Educational reform, the best. Oppenheim, Development of the child; Warner, Study of children, as the best books on child study. Hinsdale's Life of Horace Mann he considered a valuable contribution to the history of education in America.

The foreign history was considered by W. Dawson Johnston, who annotates the English history titles issued by the A. L. A. Publishing section. Four books he specially recommended: Blok, History of the people of the Netherlands; Bodley, France; Butterworth, South America; Langlois and Seignobos, Introduction to the study of history. To these he added the Bismarck memoirs; O'Brien's Life of C. S. Parnell; Tschudi, Marie Antoinette.

George Parker Winship, of the John Carter Brown library, Providence, said there was not one book on the list that any library need regret not having bought. The meeting was closed by Miss Sargent, of the Medford public library, on Juveniles.* She specially commended 22 books, and discarded Rhoden, An obstinate maid; Ross, Heroes of our war with Spain.

Books on Georgia

In answer to a request for some books which give reliable accounts of Georgia history, and the color of the life within its borders, Miss Wallace, of Atlanta, sends the following:

History of Georgia—Avary, Jones, McCall, Stevens.

Georgia Statistics—White.

Georgia Collections.

Georgia Scenes—Longstreet.

Stories of Georgia—Joel C. Harris.

The writers who have influence are the men who express perfectly what others think, and who awake in men's minds feelings that were ready to blossom.—Joubert.

*These will be given in a later issue.

Library Schools

Illinois

Anna Price has left the junior class to accept a three months' position under Mary E. Gale, who is organizing the library in Danville, Ill. Miss Price will complete her junior work during her senior year.

Prof. H. R. Schoolcraft lectured to the senior class the morning of April 4, on English history.

At a recent meeting of the Library club the new officers elected were as follows: President, Grace Edwards, from the staff; vice-president, Nellie Parham, from the senior class; secretary and treasurer, Florence Beck, from the junior class.

It is encouraging to note that the State agricultural experiment station is to work with the library school in the interest and furthering of the traveling library movement. They will collect material and also lecture in this cause before each farmers' institute in the state.

The Chicago Tribune has made reproductions on bristol board of the illustrations of the library building decorations published in one of their recent issues. These reproductions are now at the university, and will be distributed to those interested.

Pratt

The fourth annual field-work tour of the Library school of Pratt institute took place this year between March 27 and April 1 inclusive. The party consisted of 16 students of both classes, under the conduct of Miss Plummer, the director, and Miss Collar, one of the staff of instructors. The libraries visited were those of Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr college, Wilkes Barre, and Scranton. In Philadelphia the list included the library of Drexel institute, where a charming tea was tendered the visitors by the Graduates' association of the Drexel institute library school, the library of the university of Pennsylvania, of the American philosophical society Franklin institute, Historical society, and Academy of natural sciences, the

Apprentices' library, the Library company and its Ridgway branch, the Bar association library, and the Free public library with its West Philadelphia and Wagner institute branches, and the Widener collection of incunabula. In making this last visit the party had the unusual privilege of inspecting the interesting collection of paintings brought together by Mr Widener, and now hung in the house on Broad street which he has recently presented to the public library. A delightful reception was given to the visiting school at the rooms of the Philobiblon club, of which Mr Thomson, Mr Montgomery, and other librarians are charter members; and the stay in Philadelphia closed with an evening trip to Bryn Mawr, where the library was explained by Miss Lord, the librarian, and refreshments served in a cozy students' parlor. The morning of the 30th saw the party on its way to Wilkes Barre, where a repetition of the Philadelphia hospitality met them, in the form of a reception and supper in the beautiful reference room of the Osterhout library, after closing hours in the evening. This part of the trip being much less crowded than the first few days, the school had time to pay two long visits to the library and note many of Miss James' ingenious methods and devices. The visitors were inclined to consider their stop here in the light of a celebration, since the board of the Osterhout library had that day authorized the establishment of a children's room. At Scranton, although the Albright memorial library was not open to the public, the day being Good Friday, Mr and Mrs Carr and several of the staff were on hand to do the honors and explain the methods of the library, whose building from the first aroused the enthusiasm of all the party sensitive to beautiful architecture. In the evening a visit to the extensive conservatories of a prominent citizen and member of the library board, and a reception at the house of the president of the board, made a delightful ending to the social features of the trip. A flying second visit to the library in the morn-

ing was the last event of the week, the journey home proving quiet and uneventful.

The visits proved anew the generosity of the library profession in welcoming the newcomer into its ranks instead of turning upon him the cold shoulder. Methods, devices, collections, nothing made so strong an impression upon the school, I think I may say, as the hospitable attitude of the librarians and assistants that are to the librarians and assistants that are to be.

MARY W. PLUMMER.

Harriet B. Gooch, class of '98, has been appointed librarian of the North Brookfield (Mass.) library.

Henry Hudson Eddy, of the class of '95, has been appointed head of the order department of the Carnegie library at Pittsburg.

Katrine H. Jacobsen, class of '96, has taken a position as assistant in the library of the American society of civil engineers, New York.

Traveling Libraries in Wisconsin

For two years the North Wisconsin traveling library association, through the Vaughn library at Ashland, has labored faithfully in the spreading of good reading matter all through the region, and it now has traveling libraries located in half a dozen counties, in such towns as Glidden, Mellen, Nash, Mason, Park Falls, Brule, Bruce, Poplar, Rib Lake, Prentice, Saxon, Phillips, La Pointe, Odanah, Butternut and Highbridge. Each library holds a half hundred books, and after it remains in one place four months or more it is sent on to the next town, and another library takes its place. In this way the little towns in Northern Wisconsin are kept supplied with good, entertaining books, and were it not for this society they would be deprived of the incalculable benefits that come from reading good literature. The appreciative and thankful letters that have come by the score from these small towns indicate that the work of the society is blessed with rich results.

California's Library Outlook

Compiled through the courtesy of

F. J. Teggart, president of the California library association

*The Library Field in California

Frederick J. Teggart, librarian Mechanics' institute, San Francisco

The custom of this association is that its president, on assuming office, should respond to the honor conferred upon him by making a brief address on some subject which seemed to him of more than passing importance. Therefore, lest this good custom should be interrupted, I purpose to present to you a few general observations touching the field in which our activities lie.

I do this the more readily from believing in the necessity of both individuals and associations pausing from time to time to survey the result of their past efforts, in order that they may be the better guided in laying out their plans for the future.

I am also moved to these considerations from the conviction that we, as librarians, are concerned not alone with the questions of internal organization and administration which affect us separately, not alone with our regular "proceedings and transactions" as an association, but that we are concerned also with the general character and condition of the libraries of the state. Moreover, because in proportion as we believe in the progressive movement of modern society we must adopt a policy toward those changes which are going on around us. Such a definite attitude toward the library interests of California is, I believe, of the utmost importance to us, and especially at this particular moment.

It must be acknowledged that there

are many things in the conditions of our library field today which, to an outside observer, would appear open to criticism and in the highest degree unpromising.

Noticeable in this regard, among the events of 1898, was the ignominious and regrettable end of a library which had once been a prominent factor in the book world of the city of San Francisco. The Odd Fellows' library was no ordinary collection, but, made by men of learning and judgment, it contained many works of rarity and permanent value, and periodical sets nowhere else to be found on the Coast.

It may be that "the day has gone by" for subscription libraries, and that such an one as this could not have hoped to live much longer. But, at least in this particular instance, it is more certain that after the group of men had departed by whose efforts this library had been built up, there was none of equal energy and intelligence to continue its work. As a result interest in the institution, and the quality of its administration, declined, until the auctioneer's hammer closed the incident forever.

I cannot pause to consider the many points which an occurrence of so unusual a character call up, but neither can I pass on without a protest against the unhesitating manner in which many valuable works were disposed of which had been presented as gifts to the library. It is my unqualified opinion that in the event of the breaking up of a public or semi-public library its gifts should be passed on to some more permanent habitation. The act of gift was certainly an intimation that the donor had desired the public to have in perpetuity

*[Presidential address to Library association of California, Feb. 10, 1899.]

the benefit of those treasures which he personally had valued. In other words, gifts to a library should be considered a trust rather than a possession.

On the whole, the dissolution of this library might be the less worthy of remark were it not for the possibility which we all foresee of another and still more notable collection following in its path.

The Mercantile library, as an institution, has been associated intimately with the growth of the city, having been the first public library established in San Francisco, and today, with all its drawbacks, it is looked upon with deep affection by a great number of people. It prospered, then erected an expensive building which, though adequate and well appointed, was too far removed from the main routes of travel and, finally, having become heavily involved in debt is, as you all know, on the brink of oblivion.

It is a simple matter to ascribe, off-hand, the end of these libraries to their poor management; and while it is unfortunately true that they have suffered greatly from this cause, it must not be overlooked that California is not an ideal place for library development.

It has been pointed out that our equable climate, forever extending an invitation to an out-of-door life, militates against much reading of books, and may be held answerable for that marked absence of public interest in libraries which has permitted the decline of the two just mentioned, and which is perhaps best exemplified in the provision made for our Free public library, which remains today in quarters utterly undapted and insufficient for its needs.

If general indications go for anything, it would be no difficult matter to prove that the public of California has not yet reached what might be called the library stage of development, for it is impossible to point to a single library among those here represented which fulfills the modern requirements of being at the same time suitably housed, adequately supported, and free from political influence.

The Free public library of San Francisco is at present well supported financially, is under the guidance of an exceptionally able board of trustees; but, as I have intimated, is still housed in a manner wholly unbecoming the status of this city. The Free public library of Oakland is in worse condition, as a result of civic politics, and, extraordinary as it may seem, is situated in a wooden building 30 years old.

The library of the university of California, the most ably administered of our institutions, suffers greatly from inadequate financial appropriations, as it does also from lack of room in its present quarters. Nor can a Californian point with any pride to his State library, which, with a large income, and occupying an important space in the state capitol, is distinguished only for being a rendezvous for politicians. As a measure of the public spirit in which the state legislature views this institution, it is only necessary to point to the fact that the simple proposal to grant permission to the librarian to adopt a system of inter-library loans has just been overwhelmingly defeated. Needless to say, the scheme originated by our library association for establishing traveling libraries in connection with the State library has received no consideration at all.

In San Francisco the Mechanics' institute, despite the success which has made it the most notable library of its kind in the United States, and its million dollars' worth of outside property, is lodged in a building which, having been erected before the modern library movement began, is consistently out of date.

Once in a while when a visitor from the east, who is interested in books, calls upon us, he begins to descant upon the good fortune of San Francisco in possessing one of the "great libraries" of the country. We are puzzled, and, if benevolent, accept him as harmless; but after a time he asks to be taken to this renowned institution, and we find he has been alluding to the Sutro library. Among those who know of our affairs

only through the Bureau of education statistics, there seems to be an idea that San Francisco really does possess such a library; but to us who know the musty warehouses where this agglomeration of 200,000 books is stored, the very mention of the collection is painful, for not only are the books now wholly inaccessible, but it is to be feared they will never benefit the student upon the Pacific Coast.

Of another famous but equally inaccessible collection, the Bancroft library, we have greater hopes, and indeed it would be good cause for humiliation if this really great library was suffered to be dispersed, or taken from us.

Having thus briefly placed before you the features of our local affairs, which might with justice be urged against us by a critical observer, I turn with pleasure to notice the no less important "silver lining" to this dark aspect, for I am not desirous of convincing you that the public library is a hopeless institution in California. On the contrary, I believe that no one making an impartial estimate of the situation can doubt that the next five years will see something analogous to a revolution in library conditions here in the farthest west. Changes of this kind do not spring forth full fledged at a moment's notice, but such has been the radical progress of library ideas in our public during the past few years that we have a basis for our confidence in the immediate future.

We all remember the plight of the San Francisco Free public library not so long ago—unknown to the public, unprogressive, wholly quiescent. Compare that with its position today, when its influence permeates homes and schools alike.

The energy which has brought that renewing of life has also called into existence the library association of California, and I am not saying too much when I affirm that the growth of a new atmosphere in our library field has been entirely owing to the devotion of the two first presidents of our association.

There is no reason for calling in question the character of this new move-

ment in our library field because of the dissolution of institutions which were past rescue, rather does their extinction leave the ground clear for others which are capable.

It requires no prophet to foretell the events which may be looked for here in the immediate future. The interest which has been awakened will be satisfied with nothing less than the construction of modern buildings for the free public libraries in San Francisco and Oakland, for the university of California library at Berkeley, and for the Mechanics' institute in San Francisco. Seemingly as an earnest of these a superb structure for the Leland Stanford jr. university library is already nearing completion at Palo Alto.

To mention a point of internal economy it is gratifying to note that something of improvement has been effected even at Sacramento, since the governor instead of the legislature has been made responsible for the well-being of the library. He will henceforth appoint the trustees. But it does seem strange that the one necessary qualification for the librarianship of the largest library in a supposedly enlightened state should be a record for participation in low-class politics.

While, as an association, our legislative proposals have met defeat, whether they aimed at establishing "traveling libraries" or a "copyright depository," we have something to show for our exertions in less ambitious lines.

Since our organization four years ago, we have held our meetings regularly month by month, and have had many valuable papers presented before us. Some of these have been published in the Library journal and PUBLIC LIBRARIES, and others in our own publications.

Upon these publications I think we have a right to congratulate ourselves, and not the less because no other local association can show a series of this kind. Our third number will be issued as usual in May, and will be devoted to a Handbook of California libraries.

We expect this year, moreover, to

contribute to a California number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, which will be sent broadcast over the state, and which will no doubt do much to stimulate interest in library questions.

In addition to these efforts, I take pleasure in referring to the work which is being done on the Bibliography of California ordered by the association, and the committee hopes that by the end of the year it will be well advanced toward completion.

Taking these things into consideration, I think our association has more than justified its existence. If the youth of this organization has shown promise, it remains for us individually and collectively to see that this expectation shall be fulfilled, for have we not all been stimulated in our efforts by the inspiration which has come from our meeting together?

Need I say that it depends very much upon us librarians whether the new buildings, to which we are looking forward, become realities, and that it depends upon us very much indeed what their character shall be. It depends upon us still more to remove from our state the reproach that there is so little material in it for the use of scholars. It depends upon us that the thousands of people living in remote districts may be reached by traveling libraries, and we must not cease in our efforts until whatever resources of books are in the state shall be exploited and laid open for those who read.

Whatever policies nations may adopt, it is for us to fight for "expansion" and "the open door."

The University of California Library

Joseph C. Rowell, librarian University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

The book collections of the more fully developed American universities substantially resemble each other in a striking manner. If one were to step into the libraries at Ann Arbor or Ithaca, Princeton or Pennsylvania, Cambridge or New Haven, he would discover differences rather apparent than

real. The imposing edifices indeed are dissimilar, both as to outward form and as to interior arrangement. But he would find in all the same horde of scholars profoundly absorbed in their work: here, perchance, gathered in one immense reading hall, curiously and diversely tinted by rays streaming through some lofty memorial window as through a prism; there, scattered in smaller groups and secluded in numerous alcoves, illumined with silvery pure sunlight. He would find the many thousands of tomes classified broadly in essentially the same manner, to meet the wants of students pursuing similar courses of research. Finally, he would recognize on their shelves the same standard editions of literatures past and present, the same cicerones through philosophic thought, the same guides and sources in natural and physical science.

A family resemblance stamps them all, however much they vary in size and stature, or although they may have specialized in certain features owing to accidents of good fortune or to environment; and they are provokingly but happily alike in their *unsymmetry*. Thus Pennsylvania points with undisguised pride to that large excrescence which she terms Egyptology; the cockade of the French Revolution marks from afar the ruddy locks of Cornell; the architectural pile built by an Avery overshadows picturesquely the countenance of Columbia; while geology and Sanskrit form the bumps of self-esteem on the hard head of old Eli.

California's state university library, with its scant 80,000v., can hardly be expected to differ markedly from similar collections elsewhere. While the university of California stands in the front rank of American institutions in respect to endowment, ability of its teachers, courses of instruction, and students, its library has not advanced with the same degree of rapidity; but the apportionment of its book funds in a certain fixed ratio, for different departments of knowledge represented in the faculty, annually for many years,

has resulted in a fairly symmetric growth. Limitation in amounts of money for expenditure has one advantage (?)—only the best books are purchased. Therefore, if on the scientific and technical side there be fewer books than in older libraries, there is a smaller proportion of useless, dust-laden books; less rubbish. Old age may be decrepit and stagger under such load.

But however disdainful of century-old science the utilitarian librarian of modern days may choose to be, however slightly he may refer to "bibliothecal museums of the effete East," experience in an 80,000v. university library, where solid and thorough research is attempted, inevitably leads to a very material change of view. Baumeister and Iwan Müller, Lanciani and Pauly, may be on the shelves, but how he will sometimes long for Graevius and Gronovius, and for that massive folio Vitruvius, fat with fine coppers. With what satisfaction does he open up naive Bayle and encyclopedic Diderot to the stranger who has sought vainly, in the Britannica and Chambers, for some curious anecdote or whimsical project of Descartes. What envy seizes his soul when he recalls to mind the hundred thousands of "original sources" in the continental collections, for want of a few of which some earnest researcher has run up, bang! against the bare wall of his own library, and dazedly has given over his quest. It takes a good deal of everything to make up a university library as well as a world.

The university library is strong in philosophy, gathered by the aid of the sound judgment and discriminative taste of Prof. George H. Howison. Lucretius in every known edition, and flanked by a host of commentators, will soon be the pride of Prof. W. A. Merrill. A choice collection of the best books illustrating the relations of Spain to her possessions in the New World has been chosen by Prof. Bernard Moses. Mathematics, physics, and chemistry are very complete in sets of periodical literature. Rabbi Dr Voorsanger proposes to establish in Berkeley the greatest

Semitic collection in America, with 4000v. (including a complete Bomberg Talmud) already on hand as a foundation; and with the recently established chairs of commerce and oriental languages, a reasonably full collection of works on statistics, trade, on East Asian history and literature, will be in due time accumulated.

There is one, and but one, sacred place in the library, where nor professor nor student may set foot save by permission of the chief librarian—the alcoves which contain Californiana and the published writings by Californians. For many years California literature—manuscripts, books, pamphlets, ephemera of all kinds—has been indefatigably sought for; and since H. H. Bancroft ceased collecting a decade ago, sharp lookout has been kept for material of historical nature. The exhibit of books by California authors at the Chicago exposition was secured in one lump; but the greater portion, gathered assiduously through long years by Robert E. Cowan, was presented by C. P. Huntington. So the collection has become second only to the Bancroft library, which it does not duplicate to any great extent, and to which it really forms the supplement. A large proportion of the books, enriched with autographs, with inserted portraits, biographies, and autograph letters, is thus composed of unique copies. What delicate diplomacy, what savage criticism, what wheedling ruses, have been employed to secure these autographs; these would form the most comically interesting chapter of the Reminiscences of a collector, which I shall never have the leisure to indite.

From the beginning the open-door policy has been maintained, and students always have enjoyed free access to shelves—an education in itself, which privilege must necessarily be restricted after a fuller growth of the library. Librarians can recognize perhaps a thousand students who daily fill the rooms and alcoves, and linger at night until the dimmed electric lights remind that the hour of rest has arrived. But with

two or more thousand students the problem becomes more intricate and perplexing, and an "increase in our possessions" may prove but an "inlet to new disquietudes."

At present the university of California library, while not numerically the largest in the state, is certainly the most complete for scholarly purposes. It has nearly outgrown its home of the past 20 years, and will require more ample accommodations to be provided by the Phebe Hearst architectural scheme now maturing. The activity within our walls may be estimated by the order just sent to the printer for 250,000 charging slips.

New Library Building of Leland Stanford University

Palo Alto, Cal.

Architecturally the library building will conform to the other buildings of the university. They are of San Jose sandstone, with trimmings of broken ashlar with a rough face and red tile roofs, the general motif of all the buildings being found in the old Spanish missions of California.

The library, which is alone to cost \$320,000, is the gift of Thomas Wilton Stanford of Australia, a brother of the founder of the university. It, with the assembly hall, will form a part of the outer quad, which is destined to extend entirely around the one now in use. They face the avenue leading to Palo Alto, and, being pretentious buildings, tend to relieve the squatty appearance that the present structures bear from a distance. It is estimated that the library will be completed in time to be used by the graduating class of '99, and the assembly hall during the summer vacation.

The library is 156 feet long, with a maximum depth of 156 feet and a total height of 78 feet. The assembly hall is 104 feet front, 132 feet deep, and 68 feet high. They are united in one structure, though without inner connection, and are joined to the main quadrangle by arcades 20 feet wide in front of the li-

brary and 18 feet wide in front and at the side of the assembly hall. The arches of the front arcades, 10 in number, are 24 and 12 foot spans respectively, supported by carved sandstone pillars. Over the middle arch of the first series will be two stone pedestals supporting carved lions, and between them will appear the inscription:

18—LIBRARY BUILDING—98

GIFT OF

THOMAS WILTON STANFORD.

The library will be entered by two main doors opening directly into the central reading room. This is 66 feet square. Facing the doors are three great marble arches, forming a division between the stack room and the main room. Under these arches are the marble delivery desks, and at each side of this end of the room smaller arches lead to winding marble stairs and the balcony aloft. In the center of each flight is a book elevator running from the basement to the balcony. The main reading room will seat 200 people. The walls will be plastered, except for a 5-foot Vermont marble wainscoting, and the floor will be covered with cork, thereby giving the required silence. The furnishings will be modeled after those of the British museum—tables seating four at a side, with a partition across the center and incandescents at every chair. In the daytime the light will come from a dome of amber glass 40 feet in diameter, and from numerous windows. Over the marble arches and delivery desk are stained glass windows, with appropriate figures.

Back of this main room is the stack room. It is as wide as the reading room and 70 feet deep. It is one and a half stories in height, but extends down into the basement. This room is literally nothing but windows, and the light in both it and the reading room is superb. The book stacks will be adjustable steel, triple-decked book cases, with an ultimate shelving capacity of 250,000v. For the present, shelves for only 170,000v. will be put in.

At either side are large cataloging

and storing rooms, besides the office of the librarian and assistant librarian. The balcony extends all around the reading room, protected by an iron railing, and opens by handsome sandstone arches into commodious seminary rooms, extending, without partitions, across the front, over the arcade, and to each side of the building. In these will be placed the special books of reference of the history, economics, German, French, and several other departments, together with convenient tables and chairs. These rooms will be open to students of these departments, whereas no one except the library attendants will have access to the stack room. The balcony will have a 5-foot wainscot of sandstone, and, with the carving about the stair entrances and stone pedestals every 20 feet for statuary, will be very handsome.

This building will be absolutely fire-proof, as the floors are unsupported concrete, of Ransome patent of twisted wire, held in the brick walls, and little or no wood was employed in its construction.

The General Circulating Libraries of San Francisco

George T. Clark, librarian Free public library, San Francisco

In his admirable paper on the public libraries of San Francisco and the Pacific Coast, contributed to the Bureau of education's report of 1876, Mr Whitaker gave so good an account of the founding and early history of the libraries then existing that it seems unnecessary to say more upon that subject. Therefore, in fulfilling a request for a brief article upon the general circulating libraries of San Francisco, I shall attempt only to continue the narrative from the point where Mr Whitaker left it almost a quarter of a century ago. At that time, as he states, the principal libraries of the city, and hence of the Pacific Coast, were those of the Mercantile library association, the Odd Fellows' library association, and the Mechanics' institute. In point of size the

Mercantile was the largest, being credited with 41,563v. on Jan. 1, 1876, while each of the other libraries contained less than 30,000v. The use of the respective libraries, as indicated by the statistics of circulation, seems to have been about the same in each, varying only from an annual issue of 84,000v. by the Mercantile to 78,000v. by the Odd Fellows'; yet as stated by the paper above named, "the Mercantile library in its inception and design, in its membership, its functions, its influence, and in the estimation in which it is held by the public, is, more essentially than any other, the public library of San Francisco." When these lines were written the library was in its zenith. Its collection was the best in San Francisco; it had the largest patronage, and included in its clientèle the representative people of the city. On Jan. 1, 1876, it had 2135 members, of whom 1726 were subscribing, and this at a time when dues were \$12 per year. That the library has not continued in its growth and prosperity is due probably to several causes. The business depression which succeeded the collapse of the mining stocks' speculation, and the unsettled condition of affairs during the Kearney agitation, and the labor troubles, doubtless caused the loss of some subscribers; but in the opinion of close observers, men in a position to speak with authority, the first step in the downward path was taken with the closing of the shelves to the public in December, 1875. The library authorities, zealous in the preservation of the collection entrusted to their care, considered this action necessary by reason of occasional thefts and mutilations, evils concomitant with the use of libraries by all sorts and conditions of men for which the only sure remedy seems to be the drastic one of locking up the library and putting the key in some safe place where no one can find it. At the time of closing the shelves the members numbered 2135. During the ensuing year the number was reduced to 1958, and continued to decline without interruption until 1885, when low water mark was touched with a mem-

bership of 896. In December of this year the dues were reduced from \$12 to \$6 per year, and the membership rose to 1033 on Jan. 1, 1888. The circulation during this period fell off from 87,579v. in 1876 to 29,918v. in 1885. With the reduced income consequent on the loss of members, and reduction of dues, it became necessary to curtail expenses, and hence to make fewer purchases of books. During the five years ending December, 1885, there were added from all sources only 4450v., an average of 890 per year. Yet with the most economical administration it was found impossible to avoid a deficit.

The committee appointed to nominate officers for the year 1888 issued an address, containing among other statements the following:

Perhaps in its zeal for the welfare of the Mercantile library association this committee may be overstepping the bounds of propriety in calling the attention of its members to the deplorable condition of the institution. Its expenditures, now economically administered, exceed by far its receipts; so much so that the association at this time is in debt to the amount of about \$6500, \$3500 of which was incurred during the year just passed.

With this state of affairs existing, it was apparent that some radical measures must be adopted if the library were to regain the position it had formerly occupied. Of the measures proposed the two which were given the most consideration were: First, consolidation with the Mechanics' institute; and, second, removal to another locality.

In 1888 committees from the Mercantile library and the Mechanics' institute met in conference, to consider the question of consolidation. The latter institution was on a good financial basis and was steadily gaining in membership. It could afford to be independent, and the best offer it would make was the acceptance of the Mercantile members on the same terms as its own, and the assumption of the Mercantile's liabilities (\$15,000) in return for a deed to its property, valued at

more than \$200,000. The offer was not accepted on the ground that it would result in a complete loss of identity on the part of the Mercantile library association with no adequate return. The second proposition was next considered. At a meeting held Sept. 2, 1888, seven ex-presidents were present to confer with the trustees.

The sentiment of the meeting was strongly in favor of the continuance of a separate corporate existence, and a change of locality. Before any definite measures to effect the change were taken, however, a new board of trustees came into office, and the matter of consolidation was again agitated. A committee of one was appointed to secure a proposal from the Mechanics' institute, and the previous offer of absorption was repeated. Finally, to settle the question of remedy before the patient should succumb, the two propositions, consolidation and removal, were submitted to a vote of the members. The former received 82 votes, while 338 were cast for a new site and building. The old building and lot were sold to the Pacific telephone and telegraph company for \$157,000, and a lot was purchased on the corner of Golden Gate and Van Ness avenues for \$70,000. Work on the new building was commenced Oct. 29, 1890.

The association continued to occupy the old quarters under a lease, and expected to remain there until the new building was completed. By an oversight the lease was allowed to expire without notice of renewal being given, and it became necessary to vacate in June, 1891, six months before the new building was ready. Temporary quarters were secured at 303 Larkin street, and hither were taken a few of the books, the current magazines and newspapers, while the bulk of the library was stored in temporary receptacles in the new building. The new building cost about \$100,000, and to complete and furnish it the association was forced to negotiate a loan of \$75,000. The library opened in its new quarters February 6, 1892. The period of transition from

the old to the new had caused the membership to dwindle to a total of 713, but great hopes for the future were based upon the attractiveness of the commodious, well-lighted and handsome halls which were to be the library's future home. These hopes have not been fully realized.

The institution is hampered by a degree of inaccessibility which has seriously affected it both in the number of its members and in the income from the upper floors of the building, which were designed for renting purposes. The last report at hand (1898) shows a membership of 978, and a circulation for the year of 40,272v. The library is not self-supporting, and that the mortgage has not been foreclosed is due to the heroic efforts of the Ladies auxiliary, and to private gifts. It is sad to relate that such a noble institution has fallen upon such evil days. The pioneer institution of its kind in San Francisco, established by private enterprise at a time when there was little to contribute to healthful recreation or intellectual life, it has exercised a potent influence for the moral and mental welfare of the community. In view of what it has been, one cannot but hope that some plan will be devised which will insure for it a future unharassed by financial cares, and will perpetuate its honored name.

Odd Fellows' library

In Mr Whitaker's paper the Odd Fellows' library was named as the second among the leading libraries of the city. It contained at that time about 27,000v. and had an annual circulation of nearly 80,000v. The use of the library continued to increase until 1879, when a maximum circulation of 107,512v. was reached. Membership in the association was restricted to Odd Fellows and their families. Eighteen of the city lodges subscribed to its support, paying a per capita of \$2 per year for each of their members. Beginning with 1881 the number of contributing lodges gradually declined. A special committee on library economy had been

appointed to inquire into the affairs of the library, and ascertain, if possible, some method by which the pro rata could be reduced. The recommendations of this committee, submitted in its report of Jan. 12, 1880, were to the effect that no further reduction in expenses was feasible, and the only relief obtainable was in securing the aid of all the city lodges. This aid was not only not forthcoming, but on the other hand several of the contributing lodges withdrew their support, leaving the finances of the library in such a plight that on May 5, 1883, the trustees voted to close the doors of the institution on and after July 1 of that year. The librarian wrote his valedictory, and preparations were made to carry the resolutions into effect. Some way out of the wilderness was discovered, however, for the resolution was reconsidered before the time for closing arrived, and the library remained open. On the completion of the new building erected by the Order, at the corner of Market and Seventh streets, the library was removed from its old home on Montgomery street. It was reopened in the new place on Christmas day, 1885. Except in the matter of accommodations the library was not bettered by the change; the process of decay had set in, and was destined to continue without interruption until the end. Lodge after lodge withdrew, until but six remained steadfast; the income suffered gradual diminution, and the circulation declined from 107,512 for 1878-9 to about 20,000 for the year ending May, 1897. It was finally decided to discontinue the library, sell its contents, and dissolve the association. Announcement of this decision was made in February, 1898. The library contained upwards of 40,000v., a large proportion of which were standard works in the various branches of knowledge. Napoleon's Egypt, Kingborough's Mexican antiquities, Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, fine sets of periodicals and society transactions, and an unusually large number of scarce Americana were among the treasures offered for sale. The choicest

portions of the library were disposed of at private sale, the other libraries of the city, notably the San Francisco Public library, being among the large purchasers. The remainder was sold at auction, the sales continuing until mid-summer, when the last book was sold, and the Odd Fellows' library of San Francisco ceased to be.

Mechanics' institute

After this chronicle of financial stringency, gradual decline, and final dissolution, it is a pleasure to turn to the last of Mr Whitaker's leading libraries, the Mechanics' institute, which has had a career of almost continuous prosperity, and which is on such a firm financial basis that no clouds obscure its horizon.

While the membership of the Mercantile library was gradually declining, that of the Mechanics' institute was steadily gaining in numbers. In 1881 the latter had 1537 members, possessed 30,207v., and reported that year a circulation of 47,550v. The last printed report (March 1, 1898) records a membership of 4385, shows the number of volumes in the library to be 76,595v., and a circulation for the year of 186,189v. The library still remains in the Post street quarters, which have been its home for so long a time. Its increasing bulk and membership have required an expansion to almost the extreme limits of the building. The need of a new building better fitted for library purposes is much felt. It is a tradition that the library is particularly strong in works on the industrial arts, but this strength apparently has not been maintained of late years. In the desire to get and retain subscribers, popular books are the ones which have been most liberally supplied, and the institution has in a measure departed from the lines originally laid down. This course seems to be the result of circumstances rather than a deliberate change in the policy of the institution. Now that the library situation in the city seems to be clarifying, the position and future course of each institution will no doubt be clearly defined.

Public library

When Mr Whitaker's paper was written nearly 25 years ago, there was no free public library in San Francisco, nor, for that matter, in the state of California. There was no law permitting the use of public funds for their maintenance. In 1876 the question of establishing a free library was agitated, and after collecting all available information on such institutions a public meeting was held to consider the proposition. A committee was appointed to draft a bill to be introduced in the legislature authorizing the establishment of a public library in San Francisco. After its introduction the bill was amended to apply to all incorporated cities and towns in the state. It became a law March 18, 1878. It was known as the Rogers' act, from the Hon. George H. Rogers, who was one of the leaders in the movement. The board of trustees named by the act met and organized in April following. No funds were available until January, 1879. Pacific hall, on Bush street, near Kearney, was secured as a temporary home for the library, books were purchased and shelved, periodicals subscribed for, and the library was opened for use June 7, 1879. Owing to the meager appropriation and the scant supply of books none were loaned during the first year, or until July 19, 1880.

The Rogers' act proved to be defective in some of its provisions, and at the following session of the legislature it was superseded by the present library law, which became effective April 26, 1880. The library remained on Bush street until the autumn of 1888, when it was removed to rooms in the Larkin street wing of the new City hall. The patronage had been declining for several years, but the tide changed with the removal, and the usefulness of the library has been steadily increasing from that time. In 1893 another move was made to the quarters now occupied, in the northeast wing of the same building. Although leaving much to be desired in the matter of space, arrangement, light, and ventilation, the present accommo-

dations are vastly superior to the ones previously enjoyed. It is only a question of time when a new building will become an imperative necessity, and at no very distant day.

During recent years the progress of the library has been marked. An enlightened board of trustees has removed all needless restrictions upon the accessibility of the books, and has sought in every way possible to extend the usefulness of the institution and thereby more fully justify its existence. Five branch libraries have been established and a sixth is shortly to be opened. Each is provided with a good store of popular books, reference works and periodicals, and is practically a complete working library in itself, with the main collection to draw upon when its own resources prove insufficient. The present number of volumes in the library is 111,850, of which number 14,000 are in the branch libraries. The number of borrowers is 25,000, and the circulation of books for home use during the year ending June 30, 1898, was 415,000.

Such in brief is the recent history of the general circulating libraries of San Francisco. The period covered has witnessed the birth of a new institution, a marked growth in another, a decline in a third, and the dissolution of a fourth. A close study of the statistics of the Mercantile library and the Mechanics' institute indicates that the loss of one has been the gain of the other. That the Odd Fellows' library suffered from the establishment of the public library is evident from the decreased use made of it from the date the latter was opened. What the future has in store for the survivors is yet to be seen. But whatever it may be, the subscription libraries should be gratefully remembered for the benefits they have conferred upon society in the past.

The Sutro Library

Ellen Armstrong Weaver, Sutro library, San Francisco

When the gigantic project of driving the Sutro tunnel under the Comstock lode was accomplished in 1879, Adolph Sutro, the man who originated the enterprise and carried it to its successful conclusion, planned on a grand scale a modern mecca for tourists, scholars, and the people of San Francisco, which was to be placed on the margin of the Pacific ocean. This beautiful creation of his brain included the Cliff house, with its matchless outlook over the waters of the Western sea, with, near at hand, the tumultuous sea-lion colony on the rocks jutting from the ocean; the Sutro baths—a palace of iron and glass, anchored to the shelving cliff; Sutro heights—twenty acres of sand-dunes transformed into groves and flower-fringed walks; but the crowning glory of this shrine of pleasure and profit was to be a fine library building constructed on the plan of the British Museum library, and supplied with every book needful for scholars. This was to be located in a recess of the hills near the site of the affiliated colleges of the university of California, against a background of pines, cypress, and acacia trees.

To this purpose Mr Sutro gave time, thought, and money with unsparing zeal, but the failing health of his last years prevented this, his dearest hope, from being consummated before he died on Aug. 8, 1898. With his life passed the romantic vision of the Sutro library, but 220,000 books and manuscripts rise tier on tier, thought on thought, as an enduring monument to his high ideals.

This collection, ranking fourth among American libraries, is of great historical, scientific and archaeological interest. It is a bibliomaniac's and scholar's library, primarily, owing to its great ranges of unexplored material—a "true fissure" vein, where a miner for thought-nuggets may discover "many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore." Its great practical strength lies in works

on mechanics, natural sciences, Mexican and Spanish books and manuscripts, books and files connected with the history of journalism, and curiosia of many kinds.

The collection was begun in 1883. A year later 335 cases of books, gathered by Mr Sutro and his staff of English and German experts, reached San Francisco. This nucleus was placed temporarily on ranges in the upper floor of 107 Battery street, where it still awaits the march of events. Later on, accessions came from the libraries of the Duke of Dahlberg, the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke of Sunderland, and from Dr Clay's library near Manchester, England. From the monastery of Buxheim and the Royal state library of Munich, which latter had absorbed the libraries of all the monasteries of Bavaria besides other valuable works, came a rich accession of 4000 incunabula, said to be one of the best collections in existence.

The incoming tide of books, manuscripts, etchings, engravings and scrolls was so great that an overflow became necessary to Montgomery block, where a large branch is housed at the present time.

When the monasteries were confiscated in Mexico, whole libraries fell into the hands of the government. A National library was at this time established in the City of Mexico, and many duplicates and other works not claimed by the state found their way to book-dealers. Mr Sutro afterwards described to a friend his experience in visiting a warehouse in the City of Mexico, about 1889, where he walked "waist-deep" in stacks of books, and, realizing their importance, purchased the entire lot of old Spanish books and manuscripts.

In the Orient Mr Sutro bought a Semitic library, Persian, Arabic, Sanscrit, and Japanese manuscripts and books, which have never been pronounced upon by scholars. The Hebrew collection includes about 300 printed books and 187 scrolls and manuscripts. Many of these books are incunabula, and are valuable as such. The gem of this collection is a Yeaman manuscript

of the Medrash Hagadol of the eleventh century, the only complete copy known to exist. It is of incalculable value, and is the treasure, par excellence, of the library.

Books of science and travel are scattered throughout the two branches of the library, promising rich returns to the investigator. The classics fill several ranges. German literature includes the classics, historians, and some interesting volumes in old German, printed in blinding text that gives the impression there must be something worth searching for, else it would not be so carefully veiled from the ken of ordinary mortals. The French ranges are rich in 92v. of the *Moniteur universel*, relating to current history in the time of the French revolution, the earliest date being 1790. There is a fascinating French quarto, date 1628, on the art of fencing — *L'Espée* — embellished with fine steel engravings of the art and its votaries in heroic attitudes, and an astrological chart indicating under what sign of the zodiac it is wise to stand in order to make a thrust at an opponent with the best hope of success. Under the head of art there is a choice collection of Louvre prints, and copies of originals in the British museum, Dresden gallery, National library in Paris, a portfolio of Italian and Sicilian art, published by Griggs & Sons, Pompeiian and Herculanean art reproduced in color by Zahn; Journal of Indian art, published by Griggs, engravings and woodcuts by old masters, reproduced in facsimile under direction of Dr Fred Lippmann, and a fine series of engravings and etchings on industrial art and architecture. Picturesque Journeys through Sicily and Malta, with sepia-washed copperplate engravings, Jean Houel, 1789, is a feast for the eye. There may be nothing especially unique in the department through which we have skimmed, but there is enough cream on every shelf to feed the brains of California genius and rouse the ghost of originality to leave the shades and come to action.

A browse through the English de-

partment offers pastures green to book lovers. The enthusiasm and abandon of a bibliomaniac on a tour of discovery in the Sutro library is equal to all the pleasures of the chase combined. The Religion of nature, by Wollaston, we handle reverently when we learn that Ben Franklin's own hands set the type, when he was a compositor working at the case in Palmer's printing office in London, 1726. A quaint Elizabethan song book, printed by Wm. Byrd in 1589, is most fetching, with its Songs of sundrie natures.

Of Bibles there are a goodly number in all languages, in manuscript and print. There is a ponderous old Vinegar Bible from the celebrated collection of John Dent, printed by John Baskett in 1717, and sometimes called Basketful of printers' errors. The type is perfect, and steel engravings of exquisite fineness illustrate the pages. It is little wonder that it was impossible to suppress the edition in spite of errors. A Breeches Bible, celebrated because of the announcement that Adam and Eve made to themselves breeches rather than fig-leaf aprons, is bound in calf, with brass corners, and has reached the ripe age of 284 years. Charles II's own copy of the Prayer-book and Psalms, is bound in oak, richly carved and clasped with royal arms wrought in brass. James I's own copy of the Psalms, also bound in oak, elaborately carved and clasped with the royal crest, is said to be the very book given by the Earl of Sunderland to Charles II as he entered Temple Bar in 1660, after the Restoration. In the cover of the volume is a printed slip bearing this odd couplet:

"Buy, reade and judge;
The price do not grudge;
It will do thee more pleasure
Than twice so much treasure."

A trio of royal missals is completed with George III's Prayer-book and Psalter, a folio bound in blue morocco, bordered with gold tracings, with the royal arms in gold on the covers. It is a fine copy, ruled throughout with red lines, with a brilliant front of St Paul's

cathedral. It carries its age of 133 years remarkably well, nor do there seem to be any royal thumb-marks upon this direct inheritance from England's royal household.

There is great historical value in the old Bailey court proceedings, and among the 20,000 pamphlets relating to the Commonwealth times is a perfect old Diurnal, giving a contemporary account of the execution of Charles I.

We find also a set of the Gentleman's magazine, covering a period of 100 years; the library of the secretary of the London Chemical society; a collection of parliamentary documents and proceedings dating from the year 1000 A. D. and extending to our own times, once the property of Lord Macaulay, and used by him in writing his histories, and the codified laws of England from Lord Cairns' library.

The Shakespeare collection, although limited, is of high quality. It includes a set of the first four folios, printed in 1623, 1632, 1664, and 1685, all the publications of the Shakespeare society, and a large quantity of miscellaneous Shakespeariana. In addition to the complete first folio in the set there is a curious old stray, without history or antecedents, a fragmentary edition of a first folio, bought as a tangled mass of leaves from a London bookseller and patched up and restored until eighteen complete plays have shapen themselves together. The precious complete first folio of the set is in fairly good condition—as first folios go at this epoch of their history; a few pages were missing which have been supplied by facsimiles. This copy evidently went through the great London fire, and its edges still show the marks of that ordeal. A special providence seems to have rescued The tempest and The merry wives of Windsor just before the hungry flames had passed the margin line.

In this collection is the original rent-roll of Shottery Meadow, Stratford-on-Avon, written on 16 leaves of vellum in a fine old English hand. It is interesting to trace the names of Thomas Combes, Joe Smart, and Bartol Hatha-

way, old family names in the great dramatist's family. This choice bit of Shakespeariana left England under a strong protest from the literary world.

The department most interesting to Californians is the Spanish collection, bearing, as it does, on the early history of Mexico and of the Pacific Coast, and being largely made up of documents which have never been critically examined. There is much concerning the early history of conquest and exploration pertaining to this coast, and from these books several valuable documents have already been published, both in the original and in translations. The Geographical society of the Pacific has drawn from this source valuable historical material. From one of these books we first learned of the rescue and return to Mexico of the wrecked people of the San Augustine, a vessel which was wrecked in 1596 somewhere between Pt Reyes and Bolinas bay. The History of printing in Mexico, the original Constitution of the university of Mexico, and an early work on the Governors of Mexico, are of value in tracing the development of Spanish-American civilization in our sister republic. A manuscript copy of the report and diary of Don Maguil Costanso, royal engineer of the land expedition which left San Diego July 14, 1769, in search of the port of Monterey, the very expedition which discovered the matchless bay of San Francisco on Nov. 1, 1769, is of inestimable value.

There are doubtless many other treasures among these old Spanish books which will richly reward research. Everything relating to this coast should be most religiously preserved for the sake of the light which may yet fall upon the dim pages of its history.

Incunabula are largely represented by the press of Peter Schoeffer, printer, in 1468. There are well preserved specimens from the press of Gutenberg, Caxton, and Elrich Zell, the master of Caxton, and a rare specimen of early printing in Roman letters by Nicholas Janson.

There is a full score of illuminated

manuscripts on vellum and paper, the work of painstaking monks, who wrought their hearts into the superbly finished and exquisitely colored missals, Bibles, catechisms, and books on philosophy and tradition. It would be of exceeding interest to trace the history of several ponderous chant-books, with huge unstemmed notes, the initial letter of every chant being a veritable work of art. Many an old cloister has yielded up its treasures to enrich the Sutro library.

Under date of June, 1892, Prof. Burr, of Cornell, wrote to Mr Sutro:

It is, I think, beyond all comparison the best collection in America, both as to numbers and as to quality of the books of the fifteenth century, and I gravely doubt if it has any rival this side of the Atlantic for its literature of the sixteenth century. Rare books which I have never seen before you have doubly, trebly, and sometimes quadruply, on your shelves.

After a day's browsing among the books, there comes a strong conviction that Andrew D. White, former president of Cornell university, was fully justified in ranking this library, with its huge mass of rare and costly books, representing every branch of science, literature, and art, as fourth in value in the United States. There is enough in the Sutro library to attract serious scholars, and to whet their appetites in a research for data with which to work out the world's problems, and to labor for the development of that higher thought on this coast, which was the daydream of its founder.

The Bancroft Library—A Sketch*

Joseph C. Rowell, librarian University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

Darkness! Swing open those iron shutters, boy! Ah! with the revivifying light the still, stale air seems to

* Fuller information regarding the growth, scope, and contents of this remarkable collection is to be found in Hubert Howe Bancroft's *Literary Industries* (a most interesting autobiography); and in the chapters on Central American, Mexican, and Californian literature in his *Essays and miscellany*. Appreciations are to be found in Mrs F. H. Apponyi's *Libraries of California* also in the *Californian*, Dec., 1882, by Frances Fuller Victor, and in the *Overland*, March, 1895, by J. J. Featfield.

change to an atmosphere laden with ozone, that aroma familiar to book-lovers who lock up their treasures in cupboards, a perfume distilled from the spirits of dead authors, strangely mingled with musk and birch. It affects me like a tomb—this Bancroft library; and, as the blackness of night gradually lightens through dim dusk to cheering, full-orbed day, one can almost detect fugitive ghosts vanishing into yonder recesses. Like a Mexican tomb, completely tenanted; not a vacant space; with here and there a heap of musty tomes piled heedlessly on bare floors to afford shelf room for some later, more aristocratic and highly esteemed cadaver.

Just within the threshold, we notice not a mote dancing in the sunbeams now freely streaming in; we hesitate to penetrate the sacred precincts and imprint a profane footstep on the layer of microscopic dust-particles, as Flinders Petrie might momentarily pause before some newly opened sepulchre of the Pharaohs in the pyramid of Illahun.

But the hireling scribe cannot indulge his fancy; he must enter. With a wide-encircling glance he views the voluminous sets ranged tier above tier, perilously high, around the walls; the vista of presses holding immense folios of plates, maps, newspapers; the tables bending (they have long since ceased to groan) under heavy loads of books and papers, agglomerated pellmell. A bookish instinct tells him that "he whom he seeks is not here," and he speedily ascends to the upper story, there perchance to find his quest.

A wall of books again surrounds, thousands of them, well-ordered, neatly arranged in alphabetical rank. Not such books as one might look upon in the collections of Tilden or Avery or Brayton Ives—lustrous in polished calf, glinting with golden filigree—but plain everyday public library books, their pristine gloss and beauty sadly dimmed through much thumbing by diligent readers. At least so they appear. But on closer examination one sees they are not com-

mon library books; decidedly uncommon, on the contrary.

Here stand Alaman and Alegre, Anson and Apianus (*Cosmographia*, 1575, with movable maps), Beechey, Belcher Barcia, Bernal Diaz, Bustamente, Cavo, Clavigero, Duflot de Mofras, Esquemeling (with tremendously fine portraits of the buccaneering devils), Gage (five editions), Gemelli-Careri, Gomara, Las Casas (*Descriptio* 1664, with curious coppers), Kotzebue, Lewis and Clarke (original edition), Pattie (Narrative, 1833, excessively rare), Solis, Venegas, Villaseñor, and thousands more of rare books and still rarer pamphlets reward our inquisition, mostly in their original covers of leather, cloth, or flimsy paper, and all—all descriptive or historical of that portion of God's footstool we call Western North America.

We are at the end of the alphabet, on the bottom shelf on the north wall, and on raising up a glance at the next compartment reveals the fact that we stand at the entrance to the sanctum sanctorum. The books look down upon us with a haughty, Spanish disregard, inscrutable in the faded gilding of their titles—a challenge which the eager bibliographer leaps forward to accept.

The trembling hand avidiously seizes on Acosta (*Novus orbis*, picked up in that miserable bookstall on the plaza of Burgos); on Dávila Padilla; on Espinosa and Arricivita (won only after a bitter struggle at Puttick and Simpson's); on Molina's *Vocabulario*, 1571; on Oviedo (*Cronica*, 1547, with curious cuts), Palou (*Relacion*, 1787) Philoponus (*Navigatio*, 1621), Villagra (poetical *Historia*, 1610)—but in slow succession. We turn the leaves of these ponderous tomes reverently; we trifle not with these "grave and reverend" dignitaries; as we reluctantly and tenderly replace one folio the half-suppressed sigh is masked by a joyous exclamation with which some new treasure trove is greeted.

Come forward, thou little snip of a volume; who art thou, pushed back almost out of sight? By heavens! The

Doctrina Christiana, Mexico, 1546*—oh, delight of my eyes!—and beautifully dressed in pale yellow levant by Jenkins and Cecil. Devoutly I thank the providence which sewed my pockets up ere I entered this deserted edifice, for verily, otherwise, I might not depart guiltless. And here are the California incunabula, five of the extant six printed before 1840, modest, thin-bodied shapes—four probably unique! And here are ten fat bundles stoutly wrapped in manilla paper—bless me! all manuscripts relating to the acquisition of Texas, unknown to historian, uncollated, uncalendared even, not mentioned in any printed account of the Bancroft collection.

And other thousands of manuscripts: Zumárraga's *Pastoral*, 1534; the nine priceless volumes of Thomas O. Larkin's records and correspondence at Monterey; Alvarado's narrative, slowly penned during feeble health in the dull hamlet of San Pablo; Bandini's chronicle, persuasively distrained from his unwilling widow in dusty Los Angeles; the pathetic record of the venerable and ever-courteous Gen. Sutter, dictated in his last moments in Lititz, Pennsylvania; the personal memoirs by hundreds of pioneers who helped to establish states on these western shores; the invaluable *Historia* by Gen. Vallejo, drawn forth through innocent artifices by the genial, subtle Cerruti, who played with delicate touch upon the unresponsive chords of this portly seigneur of Lachryma Montis; and the volumes collected by Judge Hayes, illustrated with inserted photographs and views of inestimable worth, one containing manuscripts by Padres Serra and Lasuen.

We sometimes speak of the soul of a book. Ah, if the souls of these books had but tongues, what strange, romantic, incredible tales could they narrate!

This imperial folio of Gregory's *Moralia*, on vellum, illuminated, delicately

adorned, penned by some patient, tireless monastic hand in the south of Germany; a love-gift by the abbot to some Spanish ecclesiastic of high station; the precious freight of some frail caravel westward across the stormy waters of the Atlantic; immured for two centuries within some quiet sanctuary in New Spain; the prize of some pilfering sacristan; the booty of bibliophile Andrade; sold on credit to Maximilian; carried muleback with a thousand unhappy companions to Vera Cruz, and hastily shipped to a dingy Leipzig auction room; the cynosure of a score of anxious bidders; and, finally, back again over sea and land to its present seclusion on the foggy edge of sunny California. Where next?

The collections of Andrade, Ramirez, Squier, Elwood Evans, Alphonse Pinart, Castro, Cushing, Brantz Mayer, Brasseur de Bourbourg, Plácido Vega, and others, are stored in the unpretentious brick building far out on Valencia street, San Francisco. They were gathered with infinite patience, unwearied search, lavish expenditure, and in times propitious to the collector of such material, but now forever gone. For ten long years these precious books and codices have languished, imprisoned in the dark, unread, unheeded, untouched save by moth or worm. Ten unproductive years! Their enlightened owner has utilized their resources in the full accomplishment of his prodigious task; nor will to him ever return the desire to open those familiar pages again. Where next?

May a beneficent Providence preserve this unrivaled collection intact, and place it in such public charge as will ensure its perpetuity, increase, and completion for all ages.

The Smaller Libraries of California

W. P. Kimball, San Francisco, Cal.

In the wake of the California Argonauts came one with a divining rod, pointing to wealth of a finer and more enduring nature than that they sought. In a school report, on which has gath-

*The earliest book printed in America is supposed to have been the *Escala Espiritual*, Mexico, 1536, but no copy is extant. The first book still extant is the *Manual de Adultos*, 1540; and only eight books, at most, preceded the *Doctrina* of 1546.

ered the California dust of nearly half a century, stands his name—John G. Marvin, state school superintendent. Write it in the annals of the state in letters of light: There is no more effective mode of disseminating useful knowledge than through the medium of school libraries, he said. In 1861 and 1862 his words were reiterated.

Again, in 1863, Supt. John Swett most strongly urged the immediate adoption of an efficient system of libraries for schools, alluding to the beneficial results achieved in several eastern states, and quoting those forceful words of Horace Mann: No one thing will contribute more to intelligent reading in our schools than a well-selected library; and, through intelligence, the library will also contribute to rhetorical ease, grace, and expression. Wake up a child to a consciousness of power and beauty and you might as easily confine Hercules to a distaff, or bind Apollo to a treadmill, as to confine his spirit within the mechanical round of a school-room where such mechanism still exists.

It is difficult in these days to imagine the prevailing conditions of youthful California. In the place of society were chaotic hordes of reckless men from many lands whose one object was gold. Civilization lay far beyond the Rockies, and the means of communicating with it were few and poor, and beset with danger. Naturally to these throngs California meant only a place in which to seek a fortune; but after 1860 there slowly dawned the realization that life under settled conditions in this new state would be inviting, that homes would be established, education honored, and society permanently organized.

This growing consciousness of stability in the social organization so affected the public mind, that during the session of the legislature of 1866 the library bill, drafted by Supt. Swett, became a law without opposition.

The prominent feature of the measure was the obligation laid upon all boards of school trustees, and city boards of education, to annually spend

a specified sum of money for library books, the requirement being that 10 per cent of the apportionment of the state fund—afterwards changed to county fund—with a maximum limit of \$50, should thus be used. If trustees neglected or refused to purchase the books, it was made the duty of the county superintendent to expend said fund. A list of books was adopted by the state board of education for selections; no sectarian books were allowed; residents were allowed use of the libraries upon payment of certain moderate fees; the entire control of the library was placed in the hands of the district trustees as other school property, and it was to be kept in the schoolhouse when practicable.

The provision of the statute providing for the expenditure for the library in the locality where it was to be used, the district, proved an important one. It gave freedom, within prescribed limits, to each district to exercise its own choice. Such freedom naturally creates and maintains interest in this subject, as surely as the contrary policy avoids responsibility and lessens appreciation of library benefits.

The law was received with instant favor by the people at large, and in the 33 succeeding years has encountered only occasional factious opposition. Some amendments have been made with both injurious and helpful effects. There is now a maximum and a minimum rate allowed each district; it may not exceed 10, and cannot be less than 5 per cent of the apportionment of the county fund. This permits a range of annual expenditure of from \$10 to \$20 for the smaller schools, and of \$25 to \$50 for the larger ones.

In this connection it should be mentioned that this specific appropriation, this valuable compulsory feature of the law, does not prevent desired expenditures for the library from the county fund of any district. Frequently the larger districts spend several hundred dollars at a time for library increase.

The statute now provides that "the library fund must be expended in the

purchase of school apparatus and books for a school library, including books for supplementary work." The change allowing school apparatus to be bought with the library money opened the door wide for purchase of those of extravagant and useless character, as well as those kinds needed by the larger schools. Manifestly, it would be impossible for any great number of persons, especially those of limited education and experience, to be concerned in the annual disbursement of public moneys, without grave mistakes being made in the selection of charts, maps, globes, costly works of reference, and even of ordinary literature.

But, happily, an amendment of later years specifies that only such books and apparatus shall be purchased with the library fund as have been adopted by the respective county or city boards, and, furthermore, requires that itemized bills for intended purchases shall be submitted to the superintendent before the contract is closed.

Of late, wise superintendents, recognizing the educational, uplifting force of great works of art, sanction the purchase of a few of the best pictures for the schoolroom as apparatus of truest worth. Thus it is evident that the various boards of education and county superintendents have entire control and direction of the library fund.

Recovering from a period of partial mismanagement, the greatest advance of recent years is noted in the adoption of carefully-graded supplementary reading, with a sufficient number of volumes for class use, as a part of the various courses of study in the different counties. For this purpose the library fund furnishes invaluable provision, not always ample, it is true, but whether large or small it is available twice a year, when the taxes are collected.

This generous, unfailing supply of supplementary works has contributed to the interest, the advancement of our elementary schools in a degree which is simply immeasurable. To ensure the finest progress, some county boards now require certain amounts of home

reading to be performed as a preliminary to promotion, and report gratifying results.

The ideal library of the average country school in California is composed of a dictionary, an encyclopedia of moderate size and cost, a judicious selection of supplementary works of all grades, with fresh additions each year, a few works of literature and helps for the teacher and adjacent reading circles, and inspiring books of history, biography, science, nature study, travel, literature, poetry, and fiction adapted to different ages, with the addition of *St Nicholas* or the *Youth's companion*. In contracting for supplies for the library, it is the custom with the majority of the district boards to consult the teacher, to whose discretion the selection is often wholly left.

The present outlay for the library fund of the country districts amounts to about \$70,000 per annum; that for the city schools is an unknown quantity, but, approximately, \$15,000, making a total sum of about \$85,000 thus appropriated for all the elementary schools of the state. As there are about 3300 school districts in California, the average sum received per district is nearly \$21. In Los Angeles, and, perhaps, other cities, the school library fund is placed at the disposal of the public library, which undertakes on the broadest lines to supply the needs of the schools.

The total appropriations for district library purposes in the state since 1866 have been over \$2,300,000, so that if 25 per cent of this amount has been devoted to the purchase of apparatus, more than \$1,700,000 have been expended for books.

Before attempting to estimate the benefits conferred by the use of this large sum of money, it is well to consider the topography of California. Extending in length 800 miles, having an average breadth of 200 miles, with two ranges of mountains north and south for nearly its entire limits, with cross ranges and spurs too numerous to mention, so that it is next to impossible to be out of sight of a lofty elevation at

any point in the entire state, its population is necessarily widely scattered. The railroads run north and south in what is practically the center of the state, penetrating eastward in two directions. They reach directly the cities and larger towns, which are located in productive valleys, but communication to all interior points is made solely by numerous stage lines. Thus in the huge domain of more than 158,000 square miles, constituting the area of California, a large portion of its inhabitants live at points remote from centers of trade and, practically, are not in touch with the social activities of modern life. Very many of the hamlets, villages, and small towns are located at different altitudes on mountain sides and in the cañons, among mining camps, and in the vast forests of the north, or on the sunny slopes and mesas of the south, wherever, in fact, the resources of the state are being developed. Cut off from close contact with the busy world, these little communities are seemingly very much by themselves, subject to slight supervision. But the state does not forget them, and wherever a score of children of school age can be found, there a schoolhouse is also discovered. The aggregate number of school children living in these distant regions is large; probably a fair estimate would be in the neighborhood of 80,000, or nearly one quarter of the total school attendance.

Neither should the wonderfully cosmopolitan character of the population of California be overlooked in considering the solution of school questions. Not only is each state in the Union represented here, but there are also types of every European nationality, and of every degree of intelligence.

The early settlers represented the picked men and women of the world, especially of the eastern portion of the United States. Hence it is not surprising that the children of these pioneers, natives of California, with such heritage, aided by unsurpassed climatic influences, are examples of remarkable physical development. The standard

of intelligence is also officially stated to be high, and a vast number of the population possess more than average intellect.

As has been intimated, the groundwork of the elementary school system was most carefully laid in the beginnings of statehood by those who believed that "the foundation of every state is the education of its youth" and its development along broad lines. In this elevation of standard the widespread influence of these 3300 little libraries has, unquestionably, been a most important factor. It is not claimed that all schools have gained alike; to be useful, books must not only be wisely chosen for definite needs, but must be thoughtfully read. But we know that in these secluded neighborhoods especially, thousands of children have acquired that invaluable possession, a love of reading; that many a boy's life, and sometimes his career, has been changed by the influence of one good book; that growth in virtue, development of character, love of country, and constantly increasing interest in school studies are common results of reading the best produced by the past and offered by the present. The invariable reply of the best teachers, when asked their opinion of the value of their libraries, is: We should not know how to keep school without our library. We also know that in some towns great progress has been made in the last 20 years; communities have been uplifted, their views of life broadened, their general intelligence wonderfully enlarged. The reason for such changes is readily traceable to the influence of the school library, whose support, not limited to the allowance from the library fund, has, through the liberality of parents and trustees, who have given entertainments or made appropriations from the county fund, been sufficient to accumulate excellent collections of 1000 to 2000v. and more. Thus it is that in hundreds of hamlets and villages these little libraries have been the sole intellectual centers, fountains of light and refreshment in spots otherwise dark and arid.

In this rapid survey of progress during the last 33 years, we have observed that farseeing men laid the foundations of California's educational system; that a law with compulsory provisions was enacted at an early day to aid every school child in acquiring a taste for reading; it was tried, amended, made elastic for varying conditions, so that the library has become an integral part of school life; has produced 3300 fixed sources of mental power; is suited, as no other instrumentality can be, to the configuration and the immense distances of the state; has distinctly elevated the tone of isolated communities; is specially adapted to the needs of that composite individual, the young Californian; and, beyond question, has stimulated the ambition of a large number of scholars for higher education.

This district library system has the sympathy of the people, the hearty support of county superintendents, and the emphatic indorsement of the state superintendent. What is to be its future? It cannot stand still, it must advance. In what direction? The logical outcome of its present effective work is that schools and homes will be brought into closer sympathy; habits of reading begun in the school will be continued in home circles; boards of education will encourage the purchase of the best volumes for family use, and life will become sweeter, richer, stronger, through wide acquaintance "with the best that has been known and said in the world."

Teachers' libraries

The solicitude felt for the scholars' improvement through the use of libraries, has been supplemented by a measure designed exclusively for the advancement of the teacher in professional knowledge. A provision of the school law requires every applicant for a teacher's certificate to pay a fee of \$2, to be deposited to the credit of a fund known as the Teachers' institute and library fund. At least 50 per cent of this fund must be expended for books for a teacher's library, which is to be under the care of the county superintendent. Un-

der these provisions every county in the state possesses a teachers' library, of which each instructor is desired to make free use, and ambitious teachers learn to appreciate at their full worth these indispensable aids to their highest usefulness.

High school libraries

Coming now to the libraries of the high schools of California, we find them widely diverse in their size and development. Through peculiar political conditions in 1880, when the existing state constitution was adopted, no provision for the payment of state money to secondary schools was sanctioned by that instrument. Consequently the burden of maintenance is thrown entirely upon the localities where they exist, either in cities, or in counties where they are supported by the whole county, or again by a number of school districts jointly associated. The high schools now number 115, with frequent increase in growing portions of the state. A strong desire for economy during the first few years of a secondary school operates in the weaker towns against the early establishment of their libraries. This gradually gives way to the slow growth of a collection of books, mainly of literature and science. In many prosperous places, having enlightened boards of trustees, there are excellent libraries, provided with standard literature, books of science, and the best fiction, bearing the same relation to the institution that the library of a university does to its more comprehensive field.

Free public libraries in northern and central California

The generous interest, thus outlined, which California has ever shown in the widest education of her young people by culture through books, has extended to her cities and towns. In 1878 a general library law was passed, supplemented by the more complete statute of 1880, providing by local taxation for the establishment and support of free libraries and reading rooms in all incorporated cities and towns, the max-

imum rate allowed being one mill on the dollar. Under this statute nearly all the existing free libraries have been founded, with the exception of a few operating under provisions of city charters.

In the following sketch of public library conditions we will first look at some of the libraries in that neighborhood upon which nature has lavished so many charms—the bay region of San Francisco.

Alameda—Upon the eastern shore of the bay is located one of California's most interesting cities, Alameda, a favored place of residence for business men. Its library was organized in 1877, and was soon placed under the general law. Later years have been marked with constantly growing prosperity, especially since 1893, when direct access to the shelves was begun. During 1894 the circulation increased from 58,000 to 101,000, with a loss of but 39v., and with no additional library force. With 24,000v., a population of 16,000, its circulation the last year has been 138,000, and is rapidly increasing. The library occupies excellent quarters in the city hall building, and has an income of \$7400. A valuable lot belonging to the city, and centrally located, is designed for the future home of the library.

Oakland—The geographical position of Oakland to San Francisco is similar to that of Brooklyn to New York. Oakland is a city of churches, an important manufacturing center, the terminus of the Transcontinental railway (with the expected entrance of another in a few months), and has thousands of beautiful homes. Its population is estimated at 75,000. The library was founded by membership plan in 1868, adopted by the city 1878, has now 28,000v., sustains five branches, reports an income of \$16,000, and a circulation of 160,000. It sadly needs a new building in place of the frail structure now occupied. Oakland's taxable wealth is assessed at \$50,000,000.

Berkeley—There is but one Berkeley, and from the windows of its public library one may look out upon that

"road of passage and union between two hemispheres"—The Golden Gate. Here is located the State university, whose future never seemed more promising than at present. With these inspiring surroundings there is no room for surprise to find in this place of 8000 people a library of 6500v., with a circulation of 43,000, income of \$5000, and steadily increasing public appreciation.

San Rafael—At a point a few miles distance from the bay, lying at the base of Mt Tamalpais, is the little city of San Rafael, having 3500 inhabitants, splendid drives, and an outlook on interesting scenery. Its library was adopted by the city in 1890, has an appropriation of \$1500, about 3500v. with a circulation of 17,000v. and will soon occupy a room in the high school building now being erected.

Santa Rosa—In the prosperous inland city of Santa Rosa, 50 miles north of San Francisco, possessing 9000 inhabitants, is a library of 8500v., which is doing a good work, especially with the schools. Unfortunately a heavy load of city indebtedness seems to prevent anything beyond a narrow income at present.

Sacramento—After an early beginning in 1852, the Sacramento library passed through its initial life of prolonged combat for existence, and was adopted by the city in 1879. It now owns 28,000v., has a circulation of 80,000v. and an income of \$8000, and is doing a service capable of great extension with ampler means. Residents of Sacramento are allowed access, for reference, to the State library, with its wealth of 104,000v. The city has 30,000 inhabitants.

Stockton—In the city of Stockton the library enjoys the distinction of occupying a beautiful home of its own. The timely legacy of \$70,000 from the late Dr W. P. Hazelton erected a tasteful marble structure, and provided \$15,000 for books. Established in 1880, it now has an income of \$7500, an aggregate of 30,000v. and circulation of 106,000, and its work with the schools, women's clubs, and the community, is rapidly expanding. A classified catalog for the

school use will soon be published by the board of education. Mineralogy can be studied with the aid of a fine cabinet of 3000 specimens. Friends are multiplying, and donations are frequently bestowed, recent gifts being a large one of birds' eggs and a complete mounted collection of the ferns of Hawaii—116 species.

Fresno—A small stone pier, standing on a little hill in Fresno, marks the exact geographical center of California. Fresno's library, newly established, is proving a focal point of attraction to the 14,000 residents, for its circulation with but 5400v. has already reached nearly 3000 per month.

Santa Cruz—The city of Santa Cruz looks out on the Pacific ocean; its library diffuses its benefits throughout the little county. The rooms are attractive, and contain 13,000 books, whose circulation is nearly 4000 per month. The current appropriation is \$2800.

In Hanford, Kings county, a band of earnest women have, by severe struggles, through eight years, sustained a reading room and library. Recently a petition for the adoption of the library by the city was circulated by the society, signed by most of the heavy taxpayers, and presented to the city trustees, who at once granted the request and ordered the maximum tax in the next levy.

In Watsonville, Santa Cruz county, a step of marked importance has just been taken by the founding of a woman's club, with the avowed object of working for the benefit of the library, and eventually for its building fund, as well as for literary and social purposes. Such an example is well worthy of emulation.

Other free libraries are found in Haywards, Livermore, Petaluma, Napa, St Helena, Vallejo, Woodland, Marysville, Eureka, San Jose, Tulare, and Kern City.

Wells-Fargo library association

A report of California's library work is assuredly incomplete without men-

tion of this organization, composed of the employes of the well-known express company. Established in San Francisco during 1890, in 1893 all its privileges were opened to express agents of the coast states. In the following year the employes of the Southern Pacific railway were admitted to membership. The library has accumulated 4000v. Catalogs and supplements are supplied to members, and boxes holding two books and a magazine are dispatched to them free of expense and regardless of location. To the north, as far as Portland, 800 miles; east to Ogden, 800 miles; and south to Sorocco, N. M., 1500 miles, besides numerous shorter routes, these books go to cheer and educate these men of business and their families, whether living in the dreary solitude of the Mojave desert, among the Sierra Nevadas, or surrounded by busy city life. There are now 600 members. The dues are 25 cents per month, and are wholly devoted to the increase of the library. All current expenses are borne by the express company. Similar systems have been organized on Wells-Fargo lines at four other cities in the east and south. Thus quietly and efficiently this splendid traveling library system has been doing its work for six years past over many thousands of miles of territory, and, in the spacious quarters recently provided, enters upon a still wider sphere of usefulness.

Speaking generally, the outlook for library interests is promising. The supreme need of the hour in California is the education of the public mind to the importance of the free library. Gaining in this direction, advanced legislation, state supervision, a traveling library system and generous benefaction from individual donors will, in due time, be realized.

(It was planned to have the library interests of Southern California reviewed, but the material did not arrive in time.)

Classification of a School Library

Realizing the benefits that might be gained by pupils in the public schools from handling and becoming familiar with the classification of a library, the writer succeeded in interesting the teachers of the Lugonia grammar school, Redlands, Cal., in the decimal classification, and at their request classified and shelf-listed their school library of about 500v. Borrowers of books had been selecting from an author list, not being allowed access to the shelves. Since the new arrangement the fourth to eighth grades are allowed access to the shelves, and also the use of the shelf-list, privileges which are appreciated and used with care.

The teacher of the first grade, who also has charge of the library, being fully in sympathy with young people, and having an intimate acquaintance with the pupils in all the grades, knows their tastes and capacities, and is doing good work in advising and awakening an interest in literature in general, and especially in the classes other than fiction. The outline classification has been posted in a conspicuous place and a brief explanation given. An increase of interest in the classes is already noticed and a consequent falling away from fiction. It is hoped that familiarity with the classification, which is uniform with that of the A. K. Smiley public library of Redlands, will lead to a more intelligent use of the public library, and prevent that bewilderment that is sometimes felt on going into a large library.

Instruction in the use of indexes, catalogs, and in the Decimal classification, which is used so generally throughout the country, would be a lifelong benefit to students whether at home or abroad.

M. FRANCES ENGLISH.

It is said that the Indian library of the British India office, which is now being cataloged, will be, when finished, the most complete library of oriental literature in the world.

Questions and Answers

Q. 9. Will you please give the names of some good books on binding?

A. The art of bookbinding, J. W. Zaehnsdorfer; A manual of the art of bookbinding, J. B. Nicholson; Book-binding for amateurs, W. J. E. Crane.

Q. 10. Where can one get the volume of papers read at the Library congress in 1893?

A. These may be obtained from the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., free of charge.

Q. 11. Where will there be summer schools in library methods this year?

A. Wisconsin summer school will be held at the university in Madison. See advertisement on another page. A course will also be given at Albany, at the New York State library school, from whom information may be had.

Q. 12. What is the best method of compiling a purchase list of books?

A. The local needs and conditions must be the first thing taken into consideration. Consult late catalogs of other libraries of the same scope and character, study carefully the current lists of books found in Publisher's weekly, Critic, Dial, and other publications of like character.

Q. 13. Is it necessary to close a small library to take an inventory of stock?

A. The library need not be closed if there is an assistant to do the work who can keep at it without serious interruption. It is better to choose a time when the demand on the library is less than usual.

Q. 14. How should pseudonymous books be entered in the catalog—by pseudonym or real name?

A. Enter under the real name where it is well known. But it is better for the general public to find the pseudonym in the catalog, with reference from real name, when the author is much better known by pseudonym.

Dr Murray, of Oxford, has a letter from George Eliot asking that her name be so entered in all dictionaries and catalogs for the use of the public.

News From the Field

East

The library of Stafford, Ct., has received \$25,000 by the will of the late Mrs Ann H. Colton.

Wayland, Mass., is to have a new library building to cost \$25,000, which was left for that purpose by the late W. G. Robey. The ground, and \$3000 for fittings, were given also.

The Bill Memorial library, Groton, Ct., has been rearranged this winter. It has been classified on the decimal system, and a card catalog and shelf-list on cards made. The work was done by Alice M. Richardson and Marion E. Newman, of New London, Ct.

From the report of Dr S. A. Green, the librarian of the Massachusetts historical society, it appears that the library contains about 41,000v. and upward of 100,000 pamphlets. There are nearly 1100v. of manuscript, about 100 pamphlets with manuscript notes, and 7525 separate manuscripts. In the rebellion collection there are 2425v. and nearly 6000 pamphlets and broadsides. The most important additions to the library during the year have been the great collection of Jefferson papers given by the Hon. T. J. Coolidge in June last, the original letter of Gov. Bradford of Plymouth, with the original draft of Gov. Winthrop's answer written on the blank page, and upward of 200v., bequeathed to the society by the late Justin Winsor, and supplemented by additional gifts from Mrs Winsor.

The new public library of Fall River, Mass., was opened to the public March 23.

The library is modeled after the typical Roman palace of the sixteenth century. The style of architecture is Italian renaissance. The interior decorations are in keeping with the original design, even to the furniture, which is true to the period it seeks to keep alive.

The building is fireproof. The interior partitions are of brick, and the floors of Ransome concrete. The roof is steel, filled in with terra cotta blocks and

covered by a layer of concrete over copper. No woodwork enters into the construction of the building beyond the window frames and the doors. Over the main entrance, on either side of which are placed electric lights in classical globes, are the Latin words, *Da mihi Domine scire quod sciendum est*, a quotation from Thomas á Kempis, which, translated, means, Grant unto me, O Lord, to know those things that may be known.

It represents to the citizens an expenditure of \$252,000, including land.

The economic library belonging to the late David A. Wells has been received by the City library of Springfield, Mass. It contains 3000 bound volumes and several thousand pamphlets. Mr Wells' chief interests were in the subjects of tariff and taxation; in these the selection of books is very exhaustive. The statistical works would make a library in themselves, including most elaborate reports of this government, Great Britain, and other nations. There are also very many works in the library relating to the bimetallic theory. There are a good number of books on the wages question and in regard to labor and capital, but these are not as numerous as those in the other departments already named. The great majority of the books are in English, though there are a few in foreign languages.

Central Atlantic

Andrew Carnegie, in response to a request of Gen Wilson for a library for the Cubans in Mantanzas, has sent 2000 selected reference books.

Mrs Mary Cranston has resigned her position as indexer in the office of the Review of reviews, to become a cataloger in the library of the university of Pennsylvania.

Andrew Carnegie has offered \$50,000 to McKeesport, Pa., for a public library and music hall, on condition that the town furnish a site and \$3,000 a year for maintenance.

The report of the Carnegie library of Allegheny, Pa., shows a circulation for

the past year of 110,738v.; reference, 63,634v.; number of books in library, 41,381; number of card holders, 17,681; amount of appropriation, \$15,000.

Mary Bowen has resigned her position as cataloger in the Society library of New York city, and has accepted a position as cataloger in the library of the university of Pennsylvania.

J. N. Wing, who has been connected for a long time with Chas. Scribner's Sons, has been elected librarian of the New York free circulating, to succeed Mr Bostwick, who has lately taken charge of the Brooklyn public library.

The first work undertaken by the Twentieth century club, Richmond Hill, L. I., organized for the advancement of the educational, civic, and social interests of the place, was a free public library. The library was opened April 8, with 1100v. The arrangement and equipment are according to the latest approved methods, and the library starts out in a promising way. Dr Jacob A. Riis, who is one of the trustees, will shortly give a lecture for the benefit of the library.

The free lending library of the Union for Christian work reports the circulation for the past year as 202,919 v., slightly less than the preceding year, the decrease being caused by the war; number of books in library, 41,471. The library recently held an exhibit of nature books, about 300 illustrated volumes being displayed for inspection by the visitors. On the walls were hung pictures of birds, flowers, and trees. It was very enjoyable for everyone, but particularly helpful to the teachers in the schools.

Central

Merica Hoagland, of Ft Wayne, is reorganizing the public library of Ironwood, Mich.

A. G. S. Josephson, of the John Crerar library, Chicago, was married April 27 to Miss Engberg, of Chicago.

Benton Harbor, Mich., receives \$7000 for a public library by the will of the late Melissa E. Terry.

Lake Forest (Ill.) university is to have a new library building as a memorial of Arthur S. Reid, of class '98, given by the Reid family.

The Birchard city library at Fremont, Ohio, has just received a bequest of \$15,000 left to it by ex-President Hayes.

The report of the Duluth (Minn.) public library shows a circulation of 73,680v., with 25,344v. in the library; 1590v. were added last year. Miss Neff recommends a children's room.

Cornelia Marvin, who has had charge of Scoville institute at Oak Park, Ill., for the past two years has resigned, and goes to Wisconsin to take charge of the organizing work for the Free library commission.

The new Free public library of Lexington, Ky., opened April 10, with Mary Bullitt, librarian. This was the first public library founded west of the Alleghanies, and it is now the first free library to be opened in Kentucky.

The annual report of the Galena (Ill.) public library shows a circulation of 19,162v with 4539v. in the library; per cent of fiction drawn, 86; number of visitors in reading room, 27,539. A series of stereopticon lectures were given in April for the benefit of the library.

The governor of Indiana has appointed the following to constitute the library commission of that state: J. P. Dunn, Indianapolis, formerly state librarian of Indiana; J. R. Voris Bedford, library trustee, and Mrs Elizabeth Earl, Connersville, chairman of library committee of the Union of clubs.

The report of Miss Harvey, librarian of Gail Borden library, Elgin, Ill., shows a circulation of 136,917v. for the year ending March 31. No statistics are kept of volumes used in reference rooms, as the shelves are open in that department, but the number of persons who visited the room was 7241.

The report of the Toledo public library shows number of books in library 44,002; circulation, 145,125v.; reference,

41,860v. Several advances have been made in the past year. A children's room has been opened, civil service system in appointments has been adopted, and a compilation of regulations has been made. This establishment of delivery stations is under consideration, and a plan of branch libraries, as soon as the funds will allow.

The Vaughn library at Ashland, Wis., is fitting up amusement and reading rooms for boys in connection with the library. The regular reading rooms are too small to accommodate all the boys that go there in the evening, and Miss Green, the librarian, has undertaken to provide larger accommodations for them. The women's club has given its help, and success is assured. The rooms, and \$25 to be used in fitting them, have been given by Mrs E. Vaughn-Marquise, formerly of Ashland, now of Chicago.

West

Last August the City library of Denver, which was owned by the Chamber of commerce, was given to the city on condition that the latter should levy a tax of one-half a mill for its support. This will give an income of about \$29,000 a year. At the same time the directors of School district no. 1, which owns the Denver public library, entered into an agreement with the city to sell to it that library for a nominal consideration at any time before July 1, 1899. The plan looks toward a permanent building, but as funds for it are not yet in sight some temporary quarters will soon be provided, when the two collections will be brought together and the assimilating process begun.

Pacific Coast

James L. Gillis has been elected State librarian of California, to succeed F. L. Coombs. Mr Gillis was deputy in the library under E. D. McCabe.

Ina D. Coolbrith, who was for many years librarian of the Oakland (Cal.) public library, but who was elected librarian of the Mercantile library, San Francisco, last January, has resigned her position there and accepted the li-

brarianship of the Bohemian club in San Francisco.

The annual report for the year ending March 31, 1899, of the Pasadena (Cal.) public library, gives number of books, 13,700; circulation, 115,044, an increase of 50 per cent over that of the previous year, due principally to the system of free access in all departments, adopted in June, 1898. The two-book system has recently been adopted, also the admission of children between the ages of 8 and 12 to membership in the library.

Foreign

A committee has been formed in England to present Dr Richard Garnett with a testimonial on his retirement as keeper of printed books at the British museum. The committee is made up of prominent scholars and writers who have come in contact with Dr Garnett in his long years of service.

A. H. Huth, Bolney House, Ennismore Gardens, S. W., is the treasurer of the committee to whom subscribers are requested to send contributions without delay. The amount of subscriptions will not be published, but a list of the subscribers will be presented to Dr Garnett.

Position Wanted—By lady of four years' experience with Dewey system of classifying and cataloging. Address, Lelia M. Vaughan, Poultney, Vt.

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Books for boys and girls. By Caroline M. Hewins. Prepared as a help in buying books for small libraries. 1897. Paper, 10c.

List of books for girls and women and their clubs. By Augusta Leypoldt and George Iles. 2100 selected books worth reading, with annotations. 1895. Cloth, \$1; paper, 50c.

List of French fiction. By Madame Sophie Cornu and William Beer. 186 titles of works by 70 representative French authors. 1898. Paper, 10c.

Reading for the young, and supplement. By John Sargent. Edited by Mary E. and Abby L. Sargent. A classified annotated catalog with alphabetic list of authors. 1890-96. Cloth, \$1.50.

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Card catalog rules

Eclectic card catalog rules. By Klas Linderfeldt. 1890. Cloth, \$1.50; paper, \$1.25.

Simplified library school rules. 1898. Cloth, \$1.25.

Classifications

Decimal classification and relative index. By Melvil Dewey. For arranging, cataloging, and indexing public and private libraries, and for pamphlets, clippings, notes, scraps, etc. Subjects are divided into 10 classes, and divided into 60 divisions with 10 sections. 5th edition. 1894. Half turkey, gilt top, A. L. A., \$5.

Abridged decimal classification and relative index. By Melvil Dewey. 1895. Cloth, \$1.50.

Expansive classification. By C. A. Cutter. 2 parts. Part 2 not yet completed. 7 tables of classification of progressive features designed to meet the needs of a library at its successive pages of growth. Subscription to complete work, \$5.

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